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The World's Daily Newspaper

Paris, Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Clinton Tells Africans of Regret for 'Sins' of Past

Neglect and Ignorance' Of the Continent Were The Worst, He Says

KAMPALA, Uganda — President Bill Clinton sounded a measured note of contrition on Tuesday for past "sins" in U.S. relations with Africa, including Cold war support for represent the forefathers in slavery.

Speaking at a village school set amid

The math finds. leafy hills outside the Ugandan capital ieafy mus omand the Ogstopped short of Kampala, Mr. Clinton stopped short fact and fine of making an explicit apology for slavery - a thorny issue that continues to roil American racial politics.

He did, however, propose more than \$180 million in new aid for a continent he said had been subjected to American "neglect and ignorance."
"It is as well not to dwell too much in

the past," he said, "but I think it is worth pointing out that the United States has not always done the right thing by

A Cold War rivalry with the Soviet Union had led the United States to deal with countries in Africa and elsewhere based on their soperpower allegiances rather than how they stood in the struggle for their own people's aspirations to live up to the fullest of their God-given abilities," he said.

"And of course, going back to the time before we were even a nation, European-Americans received the fruits of the slave trade, and we were wrong in that as well," Mr. Clinton said. His 12-day journey through Africa is

the bladt to finish April 2 at the Goree Island slave transshipment point in Senegal.
The trip takes place in a year during which Mr. Clinton has sought to call attention to racial dialogue and healing. But his aides have said that he will oot Mr. Clintoo prefaced his speech
Tuesday by saying he had listened

See AFRICA, Page 12

By R. W. Apple Jr.
New York Times Service

ception. In a 1994 study of U.S. policies

toward Africa, Peter Schraeder of Loyola University in Chicago wrote that they

have always been marked. "hy indif-

NEWS ANALYSIS

setting out to change in his 12-day trip here—three times longer than all of his predecessors combined have spent in this vast continent, which the mission—

ary David Livingstone once described

Only the transition from apartheid to democracy in South Africa under Nelson

Mandela's leadership has broken the pat-

tem dramatically enough to catch the eye

of significant numbers of Americans.

Mr. Clinton thinks the winds of

change are hlowing, says a "new Af-

rican tenaissance" is at hand and just by

coming he has accomplished something. He has demonstrated, say African diplomats and students of

Washington's African policy, that the

United States no longer considers

The Africans had pretty well concluded that we didn't give a damn about them," said C. Payne Lucas, who heads Africane, an organization of American volunteers in 30 African countries. "We've ignored this continent, except for the Peace Corps, the big oil companies and a crisis here and there, so this tin is a very helpful signal."

to is a very helpful signal."
Yet there is widespread, profound skepticism about the president's broad-

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The Africans had pretty well con-

Africa peripheral.

ference at worst and neglect at best." That is what President Bill Clinton is

ACCRA, Ghana — Africa is the Rod-

ney Dangerfield of continents: the

world seems to pay it scant beed and

shows it less respect.

Rutton ad The United States has been no ex-

Region (4)05f —

grange in the

The shadel For Africa, Rare Respect

Just by Visiting, Clinton Recognizes Its Potential



Some of the 150 or so Indonesian migrants, including children, being deported from Malaysia on Tuesday.

Malaysia to Indonesians: Go Away

That's the Official Name of Its Crackdown on Illegal Immigrants

By Thomas Fuller ational Herald Tribune

KUALA LUMPUR-The Malaysian Navy has launched a small fleet. The police have descended almost nightly oo squatter villages, arresting those without working papers. And trawler captains convicted of ferrying illegal immigrants have been sentenced to three years in prisoo and six lashes with a rattan cane.

Malaysia in receot weeks has all but declared war on

boatloads of illegal immigrants landing on its shores.

Called a oew hreed of "boat people" by Malaysia's prime minister, Mahathir bin Mohamad, they are refugees from Indonesia's financial crisis. About 19,000 refugees, almost all of them Indonesian, have been arrested since

er goal of establishing important, lasting

economic links with Africa. Mr. Clintoo

is raising expectations, perhaps beyond

his capacity to fulfill them.

Richard Moose, who served as as-

sistant secretary of state for African

affairs in the Carter administration, said last week: "It is going to take huge human and financial resources to trans-

form the place, and we haven't the slightest idea where they are going to

come from. Certainly not from us. It's

hard to believe that we will ever again

· The United States hopes that trade,

But most African countries have small

populations, shaky legal frameworks, if any, and negligible middle classes. Edu-cation and health care are often inad-

See CLINTON, Page 12

offer aid on a Cold War scale."

not aid, will do the joh.

January in Malaysia, twice the number in all of last year. To stem the flow, authorities last week launched Operation Nyah, or, literally translated: Operation Go Away, Naval ships, police boats and helicopters patrol the Strait

Malacca around the clock, intercepting overloaded trawlers before they can reach Malaysia

After years of igooring the influx of illegal workers — there are about 800,000 of them in the country — Malaysia is sealing its borders and handing down harsh sentences for those caught ferrying or harboring the workers.

Neighboring Singapore has also ordered a crackdown on illegal immigrants. On Saturday, a judge sentenced 117 men, convicted of entering the country illegally or over-

See MALAYSIA, Page 12



President Clinton with President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda at a village school Tuesday. Mr. Clinton announced \$182 million in aid for Africa.

Yeltsin Will Retain 2 Senior Ministers

No Clues Yet On Top Post

By David Hoffman

- President Boris Yeltsin spared his foreign and defense ministers Tuesday from the government reorganization he ordered this week while berating his top aides, saying they allowed his orders to go unenforced and

warning they could be fired, too.

Mr. Yeltsin offered oo clues as to his choice for a new prime minister to re-place Viktor Chernomyrdin. But the temporary prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, a one-time banker, bounded across Moscow's political landscape with obvious enthusiasm as he prepared recommendations for Mr. Yeltsin, leading to more speculation that Mr. Kir-

Alhright defends Yeltsin's right to dismiss his team. Page 7.

iyenko, 35, was a serious candidate to head the new governmeot. Showing deference to Parliameot, which is dominated by Communists and

nationalists, Mr. Kiriyenko paid courtesy calls on leaders of both houses to ask for their suggestions.

The presidential spokesman, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, said the acting prime minister had not yet met or talked with Mr. Veltsin, a day after the president Mr. Yeltsin, a day after the president elevated him to run the government.

Mr. Kiriyenko has said that Mr. Yeltsin ordered him to come up with a new government within about a week and that he was planning to be at center stage again Wednesday when the pres-ident meets here with President Jacques Chirac of France and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany.

Mr. Kiriyenko also is expected to meet with Grigori Yavlinsky, the cen-trist leader of the Yabloko hloc in Parliament, who is among several other leading political figures mentiooed as a

possible oew prime minister.

During a meeting of senior staff aides, Mr. Yeltsin spoke well of Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov and De-fense Minister Igor Sergeyev, Russian press agencies reported. Mr. Yeltsin's comments were viewed as a signal that the two ministers would be retained in the new government. The fate of many other ministers, incloding a reformer, Boris Nemtsov, a first deputy prime minister, were still not known.

Sitting at the head of a long table, Mr. Yeltsin looked pale and spoke slowly in the Kremlin videotape aired oo evening news broadcasts. "I must say," he told the aides, "I doo't like everything that you are doing.'

There was a long pause. "Especially as far as the control system is con-cerned," he said. "We must create an atmosphere in which everybody knows that a decree oot implemented means death — the end. That would mean either you write a letter of resignation on the spot, or just resign. That is all. There is no other option.

Mr. Yeltsin, who under the constitution has the power to legislate by decree, has often found his orders ignored, especially in the regions ontside Moscow. He has repeatedly demanded that his subordinates find a way to clear

See RUSSIA, Page 12

as the "running sore of the world." In recent decades Africa has mostly meant trouble, from the Biafran insurgency to civil war in Angola, from fam-ine in Ethiopia and Somalia to genocide in Rwanda, from Ian Smith to Idi Amin. France's Bugbear: Change, Not the National Front

By John Vinocur

PARIS - More than an easy-to-remedy breakdown in party politics, the extraordinary admission of the fascist-tinged National Front into the mainstream exemplifies France's resistance to reinventing itself and its difficulties in creating a new sense of national

purpose.

If the French widely agree that deals by center-right politicians with the National Front on regional governments meant transgressing a barrier of shame, the proposals made by President Jacques Chirac as a democratic response Monday night relate mostly to

the mechanics of elections and politicking. What they avoid confronting is a national climate of reductance to change, in which both the left and the right cling to old myths and conceits, and right-wing extremism finds room to prosper.

NEWS ANALYSIS

In identifying the National Front as a racist and xenophohic ad venture whose doctrine "risks ruining France, its values, its image," President Chirac called for a modernization of French political life that would address voting systems that favor political deals, the cronyism implicit in laws that allow politicians to hold multiple offices and the limited participation of women in government.

The Socialist Party, in response, said the ideas were reasonable, although insisting that it had advanced them first — and left the issue there.

But these steps appear to be just first aid for the severest of moral wounds. Under the circumstances, the ordinariness of the remedies proposed for the

See FRONT, Page 8

Chirac speech puts pressure on regional leaders to resign over deals with extreme right. Page 8.



Foreign Minister Primakov won some presidential praise Tuesday.

Iraqis Jail 'Father' of Toxic Arms Program

By Judith Miller New York Times Service

Iraq has arrested the scientist widely regarded as the father of Baghdad's germ weapons program as he was supposedly preparing to flee the country, Iraqi and Western

flee the country, Iraqi and Western officials say.

The scientist, Nassir Hindawi, was a key architect of Iraq's amhitious program to make germ weapons, and Western officials have long hoped they could freely interview hope in the absence of Iraqi secret police officers, who sit in on all interviews conducted by in on all interviews conducted by UN weapons inspectors.

Mr. Hindawi's arrest, the officials said, deals a significant hlow to the UN inspectors, who have spent much of the last seven years trying to determine the scale and killing power of Iraq's germ arsenal.

They view free access to people like Mr. Hindawi as even more valuable than visits to presidential sites or the reviews of government files because, in their experience, the program's workings become clear only when described by its participants.

"He would have been a gold mine of information," said Jonath-an Tucker, a former UN inspector and arms control official who is now a germ weapons expert at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California. Nizar Hamdooo, the Iraqi rep-

resentative at the United Nations, said in an interview Monday that Mr. Hindawi was in a prison in Iraq. He said his government informed the United Nations of the arrest early this month. Mr. Hamdooo said Mr. Hindawi

had been found with documents relating to Iraq's biological arms program, which he was supposed to have numed over to the govern-meot. Mr. Hamdoon said the authorities had also confiscated evidence establishing that Mr. Hindawi was about to leave the country illegally.

Mr. Hamdoon declined to describe the evidence further, but Western diplomats said Iraqi officials had found a forged passport in Mr. Hindawi's possession.
It was not clear how the diplomats knew this or how Mr. Hindawi

See IRAQ, Page 12

AGENDA

3 Killed in Ambush **At Arkansas School** JONESBORO, Arkansas (AP)

Two boys in camouflage ambushed a group of middle school pupils Tuesday as they assembled outside the school during a fake fire alarm. At least three people were shot and killed, and 12 were wounded, incloding two

Two suspects, aged 11 and 13, were taken into custody outside the Westside Middle School, and two rifles and other weapons were recovered, the Craighead County Sheriff's Office said.

The authorities would not say whether the suspects were pupils at the school, which has about 250 children in sixth and seventh grades.

	The Dollar	
New York	Tuesday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
DM	1.8282	1,8262
Pound	1.675	1.6791
Yen	130.275	130.475
FF	6.1268	6,1213
	The Dow	
4	Tuesday close	previous close
+88.19	8904.44	8816,25
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Wall Street Decides To Doubt Oil Pact

The U.S. stock market rallied strongly Tuesday as crude-oil prices slipped on doubts that oil producers would honor their pledge to cot production to lift prices.

Crude prices backtracked Tuesday, and with them fears of inflation that had been stoked by the accord. Those fears lowered stock prices Monday. Financial stocks were among the

top gainers Tuesday, as low inflation tends to keep interest rates down. Where stocks go oow depends largely on the performance of corporate earnings, analysts said.
"It's kind of back to normal," one

said. Page 15.

1998 Oscar Winners A roundup of the 70th Academy Awards, Page 26 Best picture: Titanic Best actor: Jack Nicholson, As Good As It Gets Best actress: Helen Hunt, As Good As It Gets Best aupporting actor: Robin Williams, Good Will Hunting Best supporting actress: Kim Basinger, L.A. Confidential Best director: James Cameron, Titanic Best foreign film: Character, The Netherlands

.700 File U.S. Mil. (Eur.) \$1.20

By Seth Faison

UNMING, China - Ma Hong had a big voice for such a small body. Barely five feet tall, emphatically two-tone in her black leather pants and hot-pink T-shirt, Miss Ma bellowed at the teeming confusion of sack-carrying travelers at the outdoor bus station: "You-SHEE! You-SHEE! Who wants you-SHEE?"

As a barker, ticket-taker and resident battle ax on a private minihus that traverses a road south from this provincial capital, Miss Ma - who was calling out the name of a destination, Yuxi, not offering a snack - looks like an undersized engine of the local economy. What fueled her aggressive posture on this day was a simple deal: Fill the bus with passengers or make no money.

"Get in!" she spat at an elderly man who dithered for a moment about whether to take her minibus or a

competitor nearby. "Are you going or not?"
In most of China, private minibuses are the principal means of getting from one town to another. Private cars are still rare, bicycles are still numerous, but for anyone with more than a few miles to travel. the minibus has become the convenient way to go, making it a regular feature of life for hundreds of millions of people.

And what a telling microcosm of China today, this minibus: Too many people, rickety infrastructure, complaints galore, grudging acceptance of authority and a durable propensity to get where it is going.

As Miss Ma's wobbly vehicle rolled ont of the

station, a sleepy-looking guard in a faded blue uniform and red armband waved it toward the road, a feint at traffic control that the driver did not even appear to see.

Theoretically, the authorities in China keep order; in practice, where politics are not involved, they mostly stand by and wave along whatever is already moving.

"So many people in one bus, isn't that against the rules?" asked an older man in a fraying Mao cap. The driver, Lao Ai, replied: "What rules? I'm the boss here." He was a short man with a logo on the breast of his leather jacket that read "Girl

The official limit on passengers was printed on the side of the minibus; "19 reserved seats." There were 28 people stuffed in. With all the luggage, it felt like many more,

MAN in military uniform placed four large cardboard cartons square in the middle of the aisle, forcing other pas-sengers to climb around them, like slithering sardines. Just try moving one of those boxes, the man's glare seemed to say, and you'll pay.

Once the hus was moving and out on the road, Miss Ma shifted to ber next role, money collector.
"Where's your fare?" she barked at the old man in the fraying Mao cap, as be dng through his pockets, pulling out a long succession of crumpled bills, worth about a penny apiece. "Faster!" Miss

propriations Committee approved leg-islation Tuesday to pay U.S. hills to the

International Monetary Fund and the

The committee approved \$18 billion for the IMF and \$505 million for the

United Nations by voice vote after two

was in doubt because Republicans

planned to add anti-abortion measures to

the funding package. In addition to

providing the money, the legislation will

impose tough reform conditions on the

IMF, some of which have drawn criticism from the Treasury secretary,

One provision would require the IMF

international trade agreements and treat

foreign and domestic creditors equally.

If the IMF does not comply, U.S. funding

may be cut off. Another provision would

with internal reports on loan programs.

to focus more on workers' rights, en-

riers, and call on Japan to spur growth

The bill will now move to the full

week. House Republican leaders have

vowed to attach ann-abortion provi-

killed funding for the IMF and United

through domestic demand.

Special

But lawmakers said the bill's future

United Nations.

hours of debate.

Robert Ruhin.



In most of China, private minibuses are the principal means of getting from one town to another. They are like the nation itself: complaints galore, grudging acceptance of authority and a durable propensity to get where they are going.

Ma yelled. Then she turned and shouted the same instruction at a middle-aged woman with a broken leg, whose white plaster cast was obviously making it difficult for ber to maneuver and open ber pocketbook for the fare.

The woman, apparently used to this sort of verbal abuse, ignored it and continued talking to her daughter as she handed over the money.

In the row behind her, three teenage girls sat jammed together on a seat designed for two skinny passengers. One of them, Bai Ling, who sported a ponytail and a Mickey Mouse shoulder bag, told a tale of coming to the provincial capital from her small town in the countryside, looking for tourist

By and by, as Miss Bai talked on, a second story emerged. The three girls, each of them 16, had come to the big city looking for work, hoping to be hired at one of several glitzy hotels where, as Miss Bai put it, the "big money" stays.

"If my parents knew I went to a hotel looking for work, they would think I was trying to become a 'chicken.'' said Miss Bai, using a slang word for prostitute. 'I didn't tell them where we were go-

As it turned out, Miss Bai said, her two friends had forgotten to bring any identification, and no hotel would hire them. To an outsider, that sounded like a

TRAVEL UPDATE

rare moment of rectitude, on the hotel's part. To Miss Bai, it was a hassle. Now beaded back bome, she said, they would find some ID and try again the

S THE MINIBUS picked up speed, its windows rattled so loudly that only lean-ing hard against them would silence the clamor.

Outside, the city dissolved into green rice paddies and tobacco fields. A crew of workers, stopped at the dusty roadside, slurped noodles from in boxes. A peasant woman in a blue smock watched a water huffalo in a marsh.

Finally able to sit down, Miss Ma pondered a few questions about ber job. She has been on the minibus road for two years, and though she finds it tiring, it beats working on the farm where her parents still

"Every day, there's pressure," said Miss Ma, who is just 22. "If we don'r fill the bus, we won't get any extra pay." Eventually letting a smile overtake her frown, she allowed that there was an element of adventure that she liked, being out on the road every

"One time, I met a passenger who sold pigs' heads," she said. "He had a long beard, and told a lot of stories. I never saw him again."

for New England maple producers from

pairs to the Capitol dome and \$1.9 mil-

lion for a connector road in Utah for the 2002 winter Olympics.
On Tuesday, senators were to debate

a proposal by the Senate Appropriations Committee chairman, Ted Stevens, Re-

publican of Alaska, that would reduce

the U.S. sbare of funding for NATO to

20 percent from the current level of

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Middle East

Abu Dhabe Berné Carro Damascus Jerusalem Lincor Filyash

Africa

(Reuters, AP)

about 25 percent.

Corporate Ladder Stays Wo-Pron Tough Climb for Women

By Kirstin Grimsley Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Sitting in an up-scale restaurant in Palo Alto, California, Catherine Mother, a high-tech execu-

tive, had a startling realization.
Fifteen women had gathered to honor a female business professor at Stanford University, and all had received master's degrees in business administration in the 1970s, the first years large numbers of women had attended the program. Most had left school with dreams of heading large companies.

But as she looked around the table at women old enough to have top executive positions within reach, Ms. Muther said, sbe suddenly realized all of the others had walked away from the corporate world.

"I was the only one who was still employed at a corporation job," she said, "other than one woman who was being downsized."

That night in 1993 was a "defining moment" that caused her to re-examine her life and career, said Ms. Muther, then 46 and vice president of marketing at Cisco Systems Inc., a computer net-working company based in San Jose,

California. Twenty years ago, the question of wby no women headed large corporations had a standard answer: Too few were in the pipeline with the right combination of training, education and seasoning. That was expected to change when the women entering leading business schools arrived in the work force in the 1970s.

But today, though thousands of worn-en have passed through business schools and into middle management, women hold only 3 percent of the top six executive positions at large Fortune 500 companies, or about 90 of 3,000 positions. Only a handful have been named chief executive officer.

The slow ascent is a result of many factors, but few people believe it stems from women not wanting the top spots, according to a new nationwide survey by The Washington Post, the Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard University. About 65 percent of Americans think women are discriminated against in getting top positions, but women are more likely to believe it, with 71 percent saying so, compared with 59 percent of men.

Even now, slightly more than half of men say a major reason women are not getting top slots is that "the doors haven't been open long enough."

Fifty-seven percent of women share that view, and 60 percent also believe women are not getting there because "men don't want them to get ahead." Only 43 percent of men hold that opin-

Panel Votes IMF and UN Funds, but Challenge Looms The women surveyed also cited family responsibilities as a major career impediment, with 55 percent saying they kept women from working as many Among them: \$4.5 millioo in relief hours as men do.

To explore why so few women comthe race to the top. The Washington Post sought out women who have reached for those jobs, interviewing 20 from across the country who received MBA degrees at three elite business schools — Stanford, Harvard and Wharton — between 1969 and 1979. The women were located through referrals from the schools' alumni departments and through published alumni directories.

Mainly dry and cuite warm in the Northeast Thursday through Saturday. The high solutionary Saturday. The high solutionary Astorm in the lower 20st Thursday and in the middle 20st of Tursey Thursday, then the plants of the middle 20st of Tursey Thursday, then the plants of the middle 20st of Tursey Thursday, then the plants of the plants

One of the few predictable

elements of travel.

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THE LYGON ARMS

THE COTSWOLDS, ENGLAND

These women were unusually committed to the career track, moving crosscountry in persuit of good jobs, investing years in professional develop-ment, spending tens of thousands of Appear were right to appearing to the seed on the seed dollars on their educations.

Now ages 43 to 60, most began careers with big companies or international management consulting firms, but of the 15 who still work full time. only two remain with large, publicly traded corporations, with one other working for a large, privately owned

Three others work for small companies with fewer than 50 employees; six are entrepreneurs, two of whom run businesses from home; five work for nonprofit organizations; ooe is disabled; one is retired; and one is a fulltime at-home mother.

The drop-off is "the corporations" loss," said Kathleen Meyer, who re-ceived her degree from Stanford in 1976 and now is executive director of the Business Enterprise Trust, based in Stanford, California, which promotes corporate responsibility. 'These are bright, motivated, honest people with integrity who got out."

Myra Strober, a professor in the Education Department at Stanford who taught in the business school during the 1970s, has monitored many of the early female. female graduates' careers. She said many who stepped off the career track tended to attribute the shift to individual circumstances, rather than recognizing it as part of a pattern of amorphous, institutionalized discrimination that sapped their energy for driving to

"If you think about discrimination as doing something 'bad' to women, that's not what happened so mnch," Ms. Strober said. Instead, "men are being favored, and women are being ignored. If a woman doesn't experience egregious harassment and she is asked if she faced discrimination, she will say no."

"Men and women are both treated poorly at times," she added, "but he gets some mentoring, and she gets none."

In a century that opened with women

hanned by law or practice from many occupations, the female MBAs pioncered a generational shift in which they combined educatioo, marriage, family nd career. Most are in long-term marriages,

with about one-fourth divorced. Nineteen have at least one child, and most have two or three. Almost all have been employed outside the home for most of their lives, and about two-thirds are the primary breadwinners in their families.

In interviews, most of the women said they forsook the goal of top-ranking management at a big public firm because the grueling work hours expected of executives made it difficult to meet family ohligations.

Some cited sex discrimination as a major impediment, but most were reluctant to describe themselves as having suffered discrimination, because they did not want to see themselves as victims. Still, almost all said they had come to feel increasingly isolated and alone at work as they rose in the ranks, excluded from what felt like a male-only cluh at

the top.
Ultimately, however, the change in dreams was one they chose as they sought more bappiness, fulfillment and

n Associate fRon Brown ites Fundina ink to Trade

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STATE AND HOUSE

By Edward Walsh Service

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Brown died in a place of

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and not to comply with court orders White House spokesman Financedy, said. 'I. Hill's allegations garding Leon Panetta and John

Mr. Kenned quoted Mr. Podesta as mg. The only thing accurate in Ms. 1) affidavil with respect to me and my the spelling of my name." mon his home in California, Mr. Bus said of Ms. Hill's allegations. Brown, a former Democratic Na

a Committee chairman, was killed hane crash in Croatia in 1996 white The a Commerce Department trans in The trade missions are high aby U.S. companies for the access sthem to foreign markets.

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WEATHER

Italian Train Safety to ensure that countries comply with Is Called 'Worrisome'

WASHINGTON — The House Appropriations Committee approved legalation Tuesday to pay U.S. hills to the lation Tuesday to pay U.S

In the Senate, meanwhile, legislation

to pay for the military buildup in Iraq,

keep U.S. troops in Bosnia past an aban-

doned June deadline and provide weath-

er-related storm relief is providing a

vote on a spending bill by Wednesday,

was presented with proposed amend-

ments that included reducing the U.S.

The Senate, moving toward a final

platform for side arguments.

ROME (AP) — Following the latest fatal accident on the state railroad, the require the IMF to release edited minutes from its executive board meetings along Italian transport minister called the safety situation "worrisome" Tuesday

The legislation will also urge the IMF but offered no remedy.

"It would be a serious mistake if we tried to minimize what's going on," the courage countries to reduce trade barminister, Claudio Burlando, told the Chamber of Deputies. He spoke a day after an express train collided with an-House, where a vote is expected next other train near Florence, killing one passenger and injuring 36, some critsions to the package. The abortion issue

The express train was traveling from Rome to Bergamo, in northern Italy,

when it collided with a train traveling between Florence and Viareggio, on the west coast. In the last 15 months, there have been 25 railroad accidents, claim-

Nations last November and could derail contribution to the North Atlantic Treaty sary or wasteful spending projects.

billion for the military buildup in the

Gulf, \$383 million for U.S. peacekeep-

ers in Bosnia and \$562 million for dis-

aster relief, mostly from El Nino-related

rejected an amendment proposed by Sen-

ator John McCain, Republican of Ari-

zona, which be said would save taxpayers

\$78 million in "low-priority, unneces-

In a 61-31 vote, the Senate on Monday

Employees at the Greek national carrier, Olympic Airways, walked off the job for three bours Tuesday to protest government measures aimed at guaranteeing the airline's survival.(AP)

The hiss and crackle of a shortwave vice's FM hroadcasts in Nairohi. The new service, on 93.7 MHz, will air news on the bour throughout the day, current affairs and sports. (Reuters)

ing 11 lives.

radio tuned to London in the Kenyan bush became a thing of the past Tuesday after the start of the BBC World Ser-

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Correction

entified the Nigerian leader who annulled 1993 election results. General Ibrahim Babangida voided the results and rescinded his promise to surrender power that year, not General Sani Abacba.

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(Jeyliolista)

Two-Pronged Executive Privilege: Protect Clinton and Slow Starr By John M. Broder New York Times Service By John M. Starr before the nooth as the president's attroneys conducted prepossibly yielding a pro-Clinton backlash. Several Republicans in Congress have already said they would be extremely reluctant to open imthey wo

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the White House."

effort to protect the presidency and to slow the independent counsel's criminal inquiry, say lawvers in the investigation. White House officials

and independent analysts. At issue were bigh constitutional questions involving the president's right to confidential advice and cold poliocal calculations. The president's advisers concluded that the potential political costs of appearing to stone wall a criminal investigation were outweighed by the ben-efits of delay and the need to preserve the confidentiality of White House deliberations, members of the president's defense team say.

The president's lawyers know they can de up the investigation by Kenneth Starr, the indendent counsel, for months as the two sides argue the doctrine of executive privilege before the courts. The potentially critical grand jury testimony of the White House deputy counsel, Bruce

momentum of Mr. Start's inquiry will have been slowed and bis task of reconstructing any White

NEWS ANALYSIS

House efforts to contain the Lewinsky scandal will have been made more difficult

A high-stakes constitutional debate over executive privilege could take weeks or months to wend its way through the courts, blocking Mr. Starr from possibly crucial questioning of key

Conceivably, Mr. Starr's work could drag on eyond the midterm elections in November. If it did, Democrats would hope to pick up sufficient seats in Congress to fend off any attempt at impeachment.

Delay could also exacerbate what opinion polls show is considerable public imparience

support began seriously to falter.

The privilege claim also extends to Sidney Blumenthal, a White House communications adviser, who refused to answer quescions before Mr. Starr's grand jury about his conversations with the president and Hillary Rodham Clinton about the independent counsel's investigation.

Mr. Starr opposed the president's move to limit the testimony of Mr. Lindsey and other aides. He has argued that they possess information relating to possible obstruction of justice and witne tampering in his investigation into whether Mr. Clinton carried on a sexual affair with Ms. Lewinsky and then induced her to lie about it. Mr. Clinton has denied the accusations.

Now that executive privilege has been inoked, Mr. Starr will be forced to assert that the testimony of senior White House advisers is central to bis case without knowing exactly what information they can provide.

"It's like a search warrant," one legal adviser to the president said. "There must be a showing that there is some kind of evidence there."

The delay arising from the privilege debate also serves the president's political purposes, lawyers and advisers said. The legal argument will take place behind closed doors, free from the prying eyes of reporters and Republican par-tisans in Congress. It will not be the tense public battle that Richard Nixon fought to prevent disclosure of the Walergate tapes.

The decision to invoke the privilege, made formal in a closed bearing before Judge Norma Holloway Johnson of Federal District Court, was the result of a spirited debate among the president's aides and attorneys over several weeks. It centered not on whether to invoke the privilege

but on the scope of the privilege to be asserted. The argument was won by the hard-liners on the president's legal team, who insisted that both executive privilege and lawyer-client privilege applied to discussions between the president and his senior advisers. The president's lawyers broadened the claim to include discussion's among White House advisers, even when the president was not present, lawyers said Monday. One analysi said that the White House appeared to have calculated that there would be

little public penalty to pay. 'This is a very unusual circumstance in which the claim of privilege carries very little political risk for the president." said Peter Shane, a constitutional authority and dean of the University of Pinsburgh School of Law.

"The president's opponents say the invocation of privilege raises the specter of concealmeni or cover-up, but the polls don't seem to show that the public cares very much about that," Mr. Shane said. "When Nixon was making these claims, people not deeply versed in the concept of executive privilege said that if he was covering up a burglary, that shouldn't be secret. But if Clinton is covering up a consensual sexual liaison, the people seem to be saying, more power to him; that's not illegiomate. They seem to think that this is secrecy where secrecy is O.K.

An Associate Of Ron Brown **Cites Funding** Link to Trade

By Edward Walsh and Peter Slevin Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON - An indicted woman who was a husiness partner of former Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown testified in federal court that Mr. Brown complained to her about what he described as a White House-directed scheme to offer U.S. businesses places in overseas trade missions sponsored by the department in exchange for campaign contributions to President Bill Clinton and the Democratic Party.

Mr. Brown died in a plane crash in Croatia in 1996 while leading a trade mission.

The woman, Nolanda Hill, who on March 13 was indicted by a federal grand jury on charges that she diverted more than \$200,000 from companies she controlled to finance her shopping sprees, made that assertion in an af-: I call and fidavit and testimony in a civil suit against the Commerce Department by Judicial Watch, a conservative group that is seeking to establish a link be-..... there have tween the trade missions and campaign

"Ron told me that domestic companies were being solicited to donate large sums of money in exchange for their -_:: difficult to selection to participate on trade missions of the Commerce Department, "Ms. Hill. :: :: lacommand: a close friend of Mr. Brown, said in the Jan. 17 affidavit unsealed Monday.

Ron expressed to me his displeasbecase: ure," she said, "that the purpose of the :: themselves Commerce trade missions had been, and valuation bik was, being perverted at the direction of

Ms. Hill also asserted that Mr. Brown told her he had been instructed by a former White House chief of staff, Leon Panetta, and the current deputy chief of there a staff, John Podesta, to delay production of documents sought in the Judicial tion and not to comply with court orders

> A White House spokesman, Jim Kennedy, said, "Ms. Hill's allegations regarding Leon Panetta and John Podesta and the White Honse are false in every respect."

Mr. Kennedy quoted Mr. Podesta as saying, "The only thing accurate in Ms. Hill's affidavit with respect to me and my conduct is the spelling of my name."

From his home in California, Mr. Panetta said of Ms. Hill's allegations: 'It's crazy. It's absolutely false."

Mr. Brown, a former Democratic National Committee chairman, was killed in a plane crash in Croatia in 1996 while leading a Commerce Department trade mission. The trade missions are highly valued by U.S. companies for the access it gives them to foreign markets. Indicial Watch filed its lawsuit to

force the Commerce Department to produce documents on how participation in the trade missions was decided.

The testimony did not include the names of any businesses that Ms. Hill said were asked for contributions in return for a trade mission spot.



Nolanda Hill, leaving federal court in Washington after testifying in a civil case, during which she said Ron Brown had told her that the White House had sold places on overseas trade missions for campaign donations. moved into the White House in 1993

Shielding the First Lady

Side Issue Emerges on Her Quasi-Official Role

By Susan Schmidt Kushington Post Service

WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton's claim of executive privilege in the Monica Lewinsky investigation is intended in part to prevent prosecutors from inquiring about conversations that the White House aide Sidney Blumenthal had with Hillary Rodham Clinton, according to sources familiar with the

Mr. Clinton has invoked executive privilege in an effort to block Mr. Blu-menthal and Bruce Lindsey, a deputy White House counsel, from baving to answer certain questions before the grand jury examining whether the president engaged in perjury or obstruction of jusoce in the Panla Jones sexual harassment lawsuit.

Mr. Clinton is also asserting attorneyclient privilege to bar Mr. Lindsey from being required to answer some questions presented by the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr. .

The central quescon in the dispute between Mr. Starr and the White House concerns the scope of a president's ability to protect the confidentiality of communications within his administration. Yet the involvement of Mrs. Clinton also raises the side issue of how the quasi-official role of first lady fits into the constitutional framework, a problem that has arisen regularly since she with plans to restructure the nation's health-care system.

Her emergence in the executive privilege fight - which was the subject of closed-door oral arguments last week -- also underscores the extent to which Mrs. Clinton has been involved in White House efforts to contain any political and legal damage from the allegations that her husband engaged in sexual relations with Ms. Lewinsky and other women,

The White House apparently main-tained that Mr. Blumenthal's talks with ber were protected from prosecutors under the same principle that covers discussions among White House officials talking about how to advise the pres-

An appeals court ruled last year in a case involving Mike Espy, the former agriculture secretary who has since been indicted on corruption charges, that executive privilege extends not only to communications involving the president himself hut also to those of senior advisers. The question now may be whether the first lady counts as such an adviser in a legal sense.

"The reality is first ladies are part of the policy-making process of the While House even though they don't have the official capacity." said Mark Rozell, a political scientist at American University who has written a book on executive privilege. "Conceivably a case can be made that a first lady could be privy to conversations of a confidential nature.

POLITICAL NOTES

Indians Want Place On Clinton Board

DENVER - American Indians angered by their exclusion from President Bill Clinton's race advisory board disrupted a town meeting

"It was a slap in the face when we were left off the advisory board," said Darius Smith, an Indian who was a panelist for the Monday night town meeting, which was attended by members of the board.

Protesters shouted down board members, and dozens of people in the audience walked out.

Judith Winston, executive director of the President's Initiative on Race, angered the protesters when she said there was no room for them on the board.

"It was not intended to represent the composition of the United States -- we can't have that with only seven people" on the board, Ms. Win-

Perot Loses Ruling On 1996 Debates

WASHINGTON — The Federal Election Commission bas ruled unanimously against Ross Perot's claim that be should have been part of the final televised debate of the 1996 presidential campaign.

The commission gave no explanation for its decision, which was name."

made public Monday. The 5-to-0 decision overruled the commission's general counsel, Lawrence Noble, who had asserted that the privately financed Commission on Presidential Debates and the Bill Clinton and Bob Dole campaigns had violated the law by excluding Mr. Perot.

Election law allows corporations to contribute to staging the debates as long as participation is determined "objective criteria." Mr. Noble said that the debate commission used subjective and vague standards to decide which candidates qualified.

Russell Verney, chairman of the Reform Party created by Mr. Perot in his second presidential bid, said the decision shows "that the Republican and Democratic political appointees on the FEC turned a hlind eye and a deaf ear to justice."

The commission members are appointed by the president on recommendation from congressional lead-

Quote/Unquote

Mark Green, who is seeking the Democratic nomination to run against Senator Alfonse D'Amato. Republican of New York, of the efforts by Mr. D'Amato to appeal to Democratic voters by distancing himself from conservative causes be once supported: "Even a cal only has nine lives - and be's in his 11th. They won't buy bis act, once we have a nominee who can defeat him. He gives 'disingenuous' a bad

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Away From Politics

· Federal advisers have selected the influenza strains they think most likely to threaten the United States next winter and directed vaccine makers to include protection against those trains in shots for 1998-99.

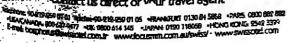
Leo Jones was electrocuted in Florida for the sniper murder of a police officer. Mr. Jones had challenged the constiintionality of Florida's use of a 75-year-old electric chair (AP)

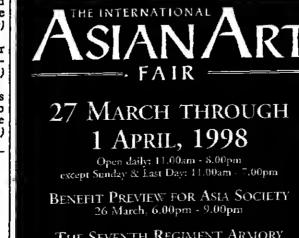
The Boy Scouts are not covered by California civil rights aws, the state Supreme Court ruled. It deemed the group not to be a business and therefore free, like any private club, to exclude homosexuals and atheists in its membership policies. (AP)





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New Rice Policies Sow Anger and Confusion

By Thomas Crampton International Herald Tribune

PEGU, Burma - In the future, San Thaung hopes everything in Burma goes the way of beans.

San Thaung, a lifelong rice farmer, started growing lentils about five years ago, after the government announced that beans could be sold for export. He has expanded his crop every year in-stead of planting more of the rice that he was being forced to sell at a discount to the government.

In the midst of the rice harvest in November, however, the government announced a new policy: All rice sales would be voluntary, taking place on the open market.

The move was intended to make the government more popular among the rural population and push the economy toward a free-market system. It ended in failure when farmers withheld their rice from the markets because the harvest was poor and kept what they had for their families.

Though it was badly communicated and hastily executed, the liberalization of rice sales offers a look at the military government's faltering efforts to move Burma away from a socialist-style command economy.

When Burma dismantled a segment of the state-planned system of agriculture in 1988 after the current military government took over, bean exports quintupled in less than a decade. In

opening up the rice market in a similar manner, government planners hoped the fertile Irrawaddy River delta could be harnessed to lift the nation out of poverty in an agriculture-based economic boom, along the lines of what happened in Thailand.

Instead, policy flip-flops have left farmers angry and bewildered and some of them afraid they may go hungry this

"Th's year, the rice-collection system was different in every region," San Thaung said recently in his fields near Pegu, northeast of Rangoon. "We still had to sell a quota of rice to the government here, but I met some farmers from Rangooo district who said they did not have to sell any quota at all."

For years, Burma's farmers had been required to sell 12 baskets of rice per

acre at a discount to help feed the country's civil servants and soldiers. Even during the most bountiful har-vests from the 14 acres (nearly six bec-

tares) that he rents, San Thaung has had difficulty meeting the quota and still keeping enough rice to feed his family. This year it was even worse because

of flooding," he said, so when given the option not to sell their rice, most farmers The result was rice shortages. Some analysts estimate that the government managed to buy less than one-third of

the rice it needed before being forced to abandon the open-market system. "If the authorities hear me say this,



Instead of rice, many Burmese farmers have opted to grow beans, here being winnowed, for the export market.

they will be angry, but the fact is that we were told we did not have to sell rice," one of San Thaung's neighbors said. "But then in January, they threatened to send me to jail if I did not bring baskets of rice to the government depot." Government officials acknowledge

there were difficulties with the new method but say they are determined to

"Whenever you introduce a new system, people are reluctant and do not want to do it," said Brigadier General Maung Maung, a cabinet minister.

More than 60 percent of the country's population is involved in agriculture, so any changes of policy regarding crops have far-reaching political con-

Another cabinet minister, General

David Abel, said the government was determined to stick to reforms of rice

At present, rice is considered a strategie crop with only limited internal trade allowed and no exports, apart from shipments sold by the government. These restrictions and the quota system have led to declining output.

Burma was the world's largest rice exporter in the years after World War II, but the country is expected to export almost no rice this year.

A measure of government's deter-mination to get the state out of the economy, analysts said, will come over the cext few weeks as the planned liquidation of unprofitable government

joint ventures takes place.
Founded in the early 1990s to help develop various sectors of the economy. incloding construction, marine products and office supplies, the companies began as entities 50 percent owned by the government.

Because little interest has been shown in buying out the government's remaining shares in the failing companies, it was recently announced that the compa-nies would have their assets anctioned

off this month. "If these companies really are liquidated, it will mean some more of the government's tentacles in the economy have been hacked off," a foreign investor based in Rangoon said. "This would really be a boost for the private sector."

Tornado in India

BRIEFLY

India Nationalists

Elect New Speaker

NEW DELHI- India's Hindu nationalist-led government scored its first victory in Parliament on

Tuesday, installing a lower house

speaker of its choice ahead of what is shaping up to be a close con-

But the election of Ganti Mohan

Chandra Balayogi, a lawmaker

from a regional party that broke

ranks with the opposition this

week, prompted an outcry from op-

position groups.

Deputies voted with their voices

in favor of Mr. Balayogi, of the

Telogu Desam Party, who was backed by the Hindu nationalist

The opposition Congress (1) Party and the United Front coali-

tion, from which Telusu Desam has

split, had proposed that the former

speaker, Purno Sangma, be reap-

pointed. The speaker's post is nor-

mally settled by consensus between

the ruling and opposition groups. The opposition did not insist on a vote count (Reuters)

fidence vote this week.

Bharatiya Janata Party.

NEW DELHI — A tornado tore through several villages in eastern India on Tuesday, killing 56 people and injuring at least 1,000, a news agency said.

Sixteen people died after a school building sheltering villagers collapsed in Balasore district in Orissa state, the Press Trust of India

The twister killed 40 other people in neighboring Midnapore district in West Bengal state, the Press Trust said. The tornado injured at least 1,000 people in Midnapore. (AP)

Macau Aide Killed

MACAU — A gunman killed a senior government official outside a hotel on Taesday in the latest slaying linked to gang warfare over gambling in this Portuguese en-

clave near Hong Kong.

The police said the gunman escaped after shooting Francisco Amaral, the No. 3 man in the govemment's gambling regulatory

Mr. Amaral, 45, died instantly from a single shot to the neck outside the Lisboa Hotel in downtown Macan, the police said.



President Kim announcing changes Tuesday at the intelligence agency.

Herald ... Cribune

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Seoul Purges Its Powerful Spy Agency

Agence France-Presse
SEOUL — South Korea's powerful intelligence agency began a house-

eleaning Tuesday as prosecutors expan-ded an investigation into allegations that its agents made secret deals with North Korea aimed at helping the former governing party cling to power.
"The Agency for National Security

Planning plotted to use North Korea to prevent the then-opposition from win-ning the presidential election, as it has done before," President Kim Dae Jung said Tuesday. He added that the agency 'must not be used for political purposes in the future." Mr. Kim was the first South Korean oppositioo candidate ever to win the presidency, when he triumphed in the December election.

The president made the statement as

the agency was dismissing 28 of its 38 top officials to reform its management.

To prevent the agency from intervening in politics again, all but those who have stayed away from politics were replaced," a senior agency official said. In particular, the official said, political appointees linked either to former President Fig. Young Sery's son Fig. Him.

ident Kim Young Sam's son, Kim Hyun Chal, or to politicians with intelligence backgrounds were weeded out. The agency will also halve the size of its department of domestic political affairs. The purge was seen here as a hid by

the new government to reform a powerful agency whose past has been tainted hy conspiracies, corruption and human rights violations.

Lee Joog Chan, the agency's new director, has already dismissed all three part of the anti-Kim smear campaign.

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deputy heads. He also pledged that the agency would coocentrate on collecting overseas economic information and on monitoring North Korea.

The reforms were precipitated by the expanding inquiry into allegations that the country's former ruling camps and North Korea had orchestrated a smear. campaign against Mr. Kim. The agency's former chief, Kwon Young Hae, slashed himself with a

blade during questioning Saturday by prosecutors. He was recovering in a hospital, officials said. The government and prosecutors have said they will investigate about 20 politicians of both the governing and oppo-

BOOKS

BEHIND THE MASK: The IRA and Sinn Fein By Peter Taylor. 431 pages.

Reviewed by Warren Hoge

FORGETFULNESS has oot come easily to the police officer recollecting the deadly "Bloody Friday" bombings of downtown Belfast by the Irish Republican Army in 1972, oo easier than it has to anyone also who it has to anyone else who lived through the terror gripping Northern Ireland for the

past three decades. "A couple of days later, we found vertebrae and a rib cage on the roof of a nearby buildwas because the sea gulls were diving into it. I've tried to put it at the back of my mind for 25 years."

Ireland is unable to let hisare ugly and persistent ones, the results of deeds of hard and purposeful meo that have little of the "terrible beauty" Yeats found in the Irish uprising against the British in 1916.

they are spirited away by masked nightriders and found later, bound and trussed, with bullet holes in their beads: they are blown

men stopped a bus and asked

killed, only to find his own spare, disciplined quotes of cussing an eventual withlife spared while his 10 Prot- the combatants in "Behind the drawal from Northern Ireestant passengers were shot Mask" have a dramatic in- land, a concession, sugto death. These mean events tensity that the densely degesting the future dismantling ened in a land unsurpassed in its capacity to romanticize, demonize and distort.

Protestants, who predominate in the North, generally wish to see the province remain part of Britain, while Catholics lean toward a relatiouship ranging from loose affiliation to outright unity with the Republic of Ireland to the south.

"Behind the Mask: The IRA and Sinn Fein' looks at like the killing of a 19-year-the organization that has at-old British soldier by a gang tracted the most attention, the Catholic underground Irish political wing, whose Gaelic name means "We Our-

Peter Taylor is a journalist who has covered Northern tory sleep. These memories Ireland since his first horrific about the "Bloody Sunday" killings of 14 Catholic civil rights marchers in Londooderry in 1972 hy heavily armed British paratroopers. His exposures of the beating People are shot down oo of IRA suspects by British their donrsteps with spouses security forces bought him and children as witnesses; credibility with the republican movement, and "Behind the Mask" profits from it, producing firsthand testimo-

nials from tight-lipped men. The book is based on a teleapart by car bombs in vision documentary shown crowded town centers; they last year on the BBC in Britain are battered for straying into and on PBS in the United neighborhoods where people States; that provenance is at practice a form of Christian-ity different from theirs.

once its strength and its weak-ness. The publisher believes You can't tell one side that "much of the finest infrom the other. On one oc-casion, when hooded gun-world is being developed for television," a notion that can what religion people were, produce some good bookthe Roman Catholic driver length reporting but doesn't got off thinking he would be assure a smooth story line. The

Among the revelations in the book is the fact that unknown to its own Parliament. Britain maintained direct communication with the IRA leadership over a 20-year

to kill him.

period through an unnamed man from Londonderry. Taylor discloses through the minutes of clandestine IRA

and the pacing stutters. even today could not be Taylor keeps his profes-sional distance. He reports uttered in public by a British

official convincing evidence that Gerry Adams was once an IRA men tell Taylor of the ease of getting weapons for active member of the IRA, an their cause in the United admission that the Sinn Fein president himself has never States, and the author voices his suspicions that American made. And to those who are money raised for humanitaritempted to cast the republican an causes was diverted to the struggle in a heroic light, Taylor is unsparing in his de-tailing of ruthless incidents purchase of arms. Taylor doesn't try to ex-

amine the psychology of those who took up the gun, but he does capture the inof pro-republican women who scratched his face into a evitability of that destiny for so many young Catholics ing. The reason we found it Republican Army and its bloody pulp as he cried out for growing up in the dreary housing projects of Belfast. Of his joining Europe's this mother and then beld him until an IRA gunman arrived

most violence-prone group in 1971; Tommy McKeamey said: "Coming from the community I come from, and came from at that time, with the history we have, being in the IRA is not seen as a criminal activity, and I didn't see it as criminal. I didn't see it any different from any other manjoining an army to take part in New York Times Service

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THE WORLD'S IMITY NEWSPAPER

meetings that as long ago as a defensive war would.

1975 the British were dis-**BEST SELLERS** 4 ANGELA'S ASHES, by Frank McCourt. 5 THE MILLIONAIRE NEXT DOOR, by Thomsas J. Stanley and William O. Danko. FICTION Danko
THE LONG HARD
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Neil Strauss I THE STREET LAWYER, by John Grisham

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6 THRELLI, by Jackie Coffice.
7 THE CAT WHO SAING
FOR THE BIRDS, by
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12 THE MAN WHO LISTENS TO HORSES, by Monty Roberts
13 SPIN CYCLE, by Howard Entry 8 BLOOD WORK, by Michael 9 NUMBERED ACCOUNT, by Christopher Roich 10 GUILTY PLEASURES. 11 FEAR NOTHING, by Dean Roontza 12 BIRTHDAY LETTERS, ADVICE, HOW-TO AND MISCELLANEOUS IS MIRACLE CURE, by Michael Palmer I SIMPLE ABUNDANCE, NONFICTION I TALKENGTO HEAVEN, by JAMES Van Pategh

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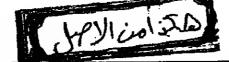
1 SIMPLE ABUNDANCE, by Sarah Ban Brestmach 2 DON'T WORRY, MAKE MONEY, by Richard Curison 3 MEN ARE FROM MARS, WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS, by John Gray. Gray
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anon, had expressed the second series over the Israeli proposal.

Both Lebanon and Syria have already rejected the offer, saying UN Security said.

Council Resolution 425 requires an un-

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Israel Calls on Annan India Nationalista To Push Lebanon Plan Elect New Spent. To Push Lebanon Plan

But UN Chief Says Syria Remains 'Skeptical'

JERUSALEM - The tsraeli defense minister on Tuesday urged the UN secrelary-general, Kofi Annan, to help win

how we can change the situation in Lebanon now," before any "unfortunate thing happens in South Lebanon."

"It is bener to find a solution now,"

Israel bas occupied a zone in southern Lebanor since 1985 to protect its northem settlements from cross-border guerrilla attacks. Mr. Mordechai has proposed that Israel withdraw its troops after obaining guarantees that the Lebanese Army will deploy in the south and preveni attacks by Hezbollah guerrillas.

The defense minister did not say what

his meetings with Lebancse and System officials. But the UN chief said earlier that Syria, the de facto power in Leband expressed "deep skepticism" message Mr. Annan had brought from that Syria, the de lacto power in anon, had expressed "deep skepticism" anon, had expressed "deep skepticism" over the Israeli proposal.

Council Resolution 425 requires an unconditional Israeli pullout.

Mr. Annan met later Tuesday with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. who told the UN chief that his government would soon approve the im-

plementation of Resolution 425. "We hope we finish the discussions in the cabinet next week," he said, "and

then I hope we will formally accept Resolution 425 for the first time since we were forced to go into Lebanon." The prime minister said he hoped Syr-

ia would not object further and would allow this agreement to go through." On Monday, Mr. Annan met in the Gaza Strip with the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, who said he hoped the secretary-general could break the Israel-Palestinian deadlock as he resolved the Iraqi crisis last month. But Mr. Annan tried to play down expectations that he could move the negotiations forward.

In the final analysis, the parties have to talk, have to negotiate, have to make the compromises necessary," he said after talks with President Ezer Weizman, his first meeting in Israel. "I sometimes used to call the area the

'Muddle East,' ' Mr. Weizman said. "I hope you will help us unmuddle ii." More central than Mr. Annan to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process is the U.S. envoy, Dennis Ross, who will travel to the region Wednesday, bringing sug-

gestions for breaking the stalemate. Mr. Annan acknowledged the pivotal American role, saying he would do his best to "help the process and to sup-U.S. efforts. Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Annan visited the

Jabaliya refugee district in the Gaza Strip, where he was mobbed by Palestinians waving Palestinian and UN flags and carrying pictures of the UN leader. Speaking at a special session Monday

of the Palestinian legislative council, Mr. Annan said that a just and lasting

peace between Israelis and Palestinians

must be based on the principle of Is-

rael's yielding captured land in return

for peace with its neighbors. I urge all the parties concerned to work with them and to have the courage, vision and flexibility to make the kinds of compromises that are required to move the process forward," Mr. Annan said after meeting with Mr. Arafat.

"I will do my best, but we should be careful not to have exaggerated expectations of what the secretary-general can

do," he added. "A friend in New York called me a magician without tricks. You understand what limited capabilities a magician without tricks has got."

backed by the threat of force in Iraq, he had no such power here. The secretary-general's visit to Israel

almost opened with a diplomatic squabble over his refusal to lay a wreath at the war memorial outside Parliament. but it was solved at the last minute.

Mr. Annan was to have laid a wreath at Yad Vashem, the memorial to the 6 million Jews murdered in the Nazi

Holocaust. His aides informed Israel that he lays only one wreath in each country he visits and therefore would not place one at the memorial for Israel's war dead, said a spokesman for Mr. Annan noted that while he was the Foreign Ministry, Aviv Shiron.

In the end, it was agreed that Mr. Annan's wife, Nane, would lay a wreath at Yad Vasbern while the UN leader

would lay one at the war memorial. Nane Annan is a niece of Raul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved hundreds of Hungarian Jews from

deportation to the Nazi death camps.
(AP, AFP)

U.S. Senators Get Suspect Packages

BRIEFLY

Algeria Convicts 8 In Bishop's Murder

ALGIERS - A court convicted eight alleged Islamic activists Tuesday in the murder of a French

bishop and his bodyguard and sen-

and found two others not guilty.

The court in the port city of Oran senienced another suspected Muslim activist to three years in jail

The group had been charged with

planung the bomb that killed Monsignor Henri-Pierre Claverie and his bodyguard, Mohammed Pouchikhi, in Oran on Aug. 1, 1996,

after they had attended a ceremony

for seven French monks also al-

legedly killed by Islamic radicals.

longing to any terrorist groups. El-even are in custody; a 12th suspect

remains at large but was convicted and was one of those sentenced to

death.

All of the accused denied be-

tenced them to death.

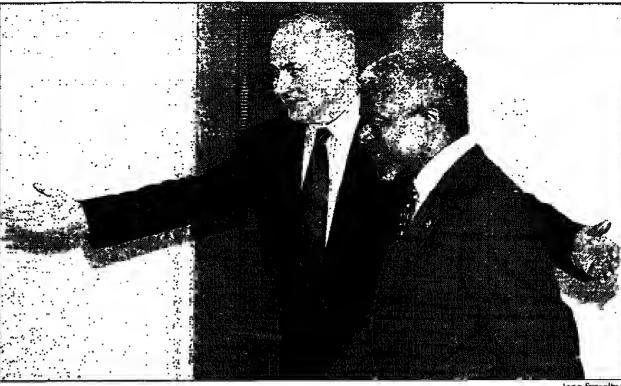
COLUMBUS, Ohio - The FBI on Tuesday was investigating two packages laced with a black powder that had been sent to the offices of two U.S. senators and numbed the hands of staff members.

Two members of the Columbus office of Senator John Glenn, a Democrat, suffered numbing, buming sensations and discoloration of the skin after handling the parcel, which also contained clothing and a handwritten letter with racial and ethnic slurs. The staffers were treated for their injuries Monday and released

A similar package - both appeared to have been mailed from somewhere in Vermont — was opened Monday in Burlington. Vermont, at the office of Senator Jim Jeffords, a Republican, No one was injured. Both senators were in Washington as the time of the incidents. (Reuters)



Five Rwandan nuns were freed by suspected Hutu rebels Tuesday, but two Spanish nuns who were abducted with them Sunday were still being held in a secret location, provincial authorities said. (Reuters)



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu escorting Secretary-General Kofi Annan to talks Tuesday in Jerusalem.

The the sector Mr. Rabbani at a news conference in Pakistan on Tuesday.

Citing the Taleban, UN Will Leave South Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan -- The United Nations said Tuesday that it would suspend operations in southern Afghanistan because of its frustration with the Taleban Islamic militia and attacks on its staff by militia officials. Sarah Russell, a UN spokesman in Pakistan,

said the withdrawal meant the United Nations would temporarily halt programs to remove land mines, repair war-devastated irrigation systems and rebuild houses.

The decision to pull out of the south — the beadquarters of the Taleban, which controls 85 percent of Afghanistan — came in response to the militia's edict that forces all foreign Muslim women working in the nation to be accompanied by a male relative, and to three attacks on UN staff members.

A UN aircraft was to leave Pakistan on Tuesday afternoon to evacuate 14 international UN workers from Kandahar in southern Afghanistan, An additional 120 Afghan UN workers bave been told to stay at home, Ms. Russell said. Mohammed Rabbani, a mullah wbo is lead-

ing a Taleban delegation in Pakistan to meet a special UN envoy, Lakhdar Brahimi, said his organization and the United Nations would form a commission to address the problems faced by UN workers in Afghanistan.

There are some rules and principles of the Islamic emirate," he said, referring to Afghanistan, "and there are some rules of the United Nations agencies. If these rules are observed, there will be no difficulties and

Since taking control of Kabul in 1996 the Taleban has instituted Sbaria, or Islamic law, and issued a string of edicts, many of them directed at women, forcing them off their jobs, closing schools for girls and requiring them to cover themselves from head to toe. The punishment for defying the rules is usually a public beating.

Ms. Russell said the tension had been

building between the Taleban and UN workers. A coffee pot was thrown at a UN staff member by a Taleban official, she said. Another UN official was slapped across the face, and a third employee was assaulted by a Taleban official with a small table. Last week, two Muslim women working for the United States were ordered to leave Kanda-(AP, Reuters)



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BOSCH

By Anne Swardson Nashington Post Service

LONDON -- The auditorium was packed, the four panel speakers well dressed and sincere. Questioned on the evening's topic, the governing of London, they answered politely

and carefully.

For a while. Then one panelist accused the minnte conversion on a particular issue. A leaders. Tory jabbed back at a speaker from the "New" Labour Party — the national governing party's reform-minded centrist wing: "Dear, it's lovely to see you coming out in your real colors, you're so 'Old' Labour."

More than 18 months before voters go to the polls, and before the campaign ground rules are even set down, the race is on to become London's first elected mayor.

When Prime Minister Tony Blair proposed the post last summer, many hoped it would be major candidates are figures in the national likely match at this point: the novelist and bourite and official in the Blair government.

There is wide agreement that the office of mayor of London will change the face of

"My view," said Tony Travers, director of the Greater London Group at the London ernor who is in the south of France writing his

member. It could be a very important al-

ternative center of power." London's 5 million voters, he said, will be the largest bloc in Europe voting for one leader except for the people of France when they elect their president. Voters in most Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher did away European nations elect only their legislative two Conservative Party speakers of a last-representatives, who then select the national

> The political process begins this week, when the Blair government will unveil its proposals for the powers of the mayor's office and the London assembly to be elected at the same time. The plan will move through Parliament, and London voters will approve or firefighting, urban regeneration and, to a lessreject it in a referendum May 7. The measure er degree, arts and the environment.
>
> "The idea is that he or she will become a is expected to pass easily, and the first election is expected in late 1999.

The campaign is either a chance for the Conservatives to regain ground lost in their free of partisanship. No chance. Nearly all the defeat by the Labour Party last May or a major candidates are figures in the national chance for Labour to enact at municipal level Conservative or Labour parties. The most the decentralization it has pushed in Scotland and Wales. London voters are not preponpolitician Jeffrey Archer, a Tory, vs. the actress and politician Glenda Jackson, a La-wide open. Even the third party, the Liberal Democrats, is given a chance to win.

Possible candidates for the Tories include Mr. Archer, an irascible figure who has some popular support but is disliked by the media,

School of Economics, "is the politician who memoirs. From Labour, most frequently mencomment on a candidacy until after the referendum) and Ken Livingstone, a leftist former chairman of the Greater London Council.

That Labour-dominated council was the with it in 1985 because it opposed her politically.

Whoever wins will preside over a sprawling agglomeration with roughly the same population as New York City but, at 1,620 square kilometers (620 square miles), twice the size. The new mayor is expected to be given authority over public transport, roads, police,

leading activist for creation of the mayor's post. Mr. Jenkins is rumored to be a candidate himself, he says be will not comment until calls "a hands-on job." after the referendum.

London is booming. But Mr. Jenkins said the city had suffered from being run by various fragments of the national government. The subway system has deteriorated, and the police forces are perceived as poorly run.

"When you scratch away at the surface, there are things that need doing," Mr. Jenkins said. "London couldn't stage a bid for the Olympic Games because there was no one to Blair to become transport minister.

□ Delta Air Lines

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

bid." A few years ago, some in the capital is elected will rank as high as a senior cabinet tioned are Ms. Jackson (who says she will not wanted London to compete for the summer Games in 2000, which will be held in

Another example is that 72 government agencies play a role in managing London's transportation system. A bicycle path that was designed to go through the city stops, starts and is interrupted in places because of uncommitted local jurisdictions.

Many say the cliché that London is a collection of villages is still true and will stay true even after a mayor is elected. It is a conglomeration of 32 boroughs plus the City of London financial district, which has appointed its own Lord Mayor each year for more than 800 years. That system will continue.

Mr. Archer, a former deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, friend to former Prime Minister John Major and an informal focus of activity on all fronts," said Simon Prime Minister John Major and an informal Jenkins, a columnist for The Times and a adviser to Queen Elizabeth II — as well as a millionaire from his books - is one of the few

He has an 89-person unpaid campaign

Ms. Jackson won two Academy Awards for her movie roles and — as the press has recalled frequently — played Elizabeth I in the 1971 film "Mary, Queen of Scots." She was elected to the House of Commons in 1992, became the opposition spokeswoman for transport and was picked last year by Mr.



BRIEFLY

COLLISION IN ITALY — Cars blocking tracks near Florence on Tuesday after two trains collided, killing a passenger and injuring 36 others.

General Strike Looms in Greece

ATHENS - Labor unions began turning up the heat on the Socialist government Tnesday; announcing a general strike over plans to streamline the economy and sell off state-owned firms.

The General Confederation of Greek Workers said it would call a 24-hour nationwide strike, probably April 9. The federation took particular aim at the government's

plans for Olympic Airways.

The government has told the financially ailing airline it must save 250 billion drachmas (\$775 million) over five years or close down.

Ireland Calls for Compromise

BELFAST - Ireland's foreign minister, David Andrews, called Tuesday for a speedy compromise in peace talks on the future of British-ruled Northern Ireland.

Mr. Andrews said he hoped a series of one-to-one meetings involving rival parties would yield progress

toward a settlement by a deadline of April 9.
"We know what the fundamental and core issues are, and I think that we have to arrive now at a series of compromises arising out of these bilaterals." he said on the second day of a make-or-break three-week round of To while towards (Reuters)

Turkish Court Rebuffs Erbakan

ANKARA - The chief prosecutor Tuesday rejected a plea by former Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan for the Constitutional Court to reconsider its decision to close down his Islamic party.

Mr. Erbakan contended that the constitutional principle

of a right to self-defense had been violated when the justices failed to ask him and other party leaders to defend their speeches and actions that were cited as reasons for the

But the chief prosecutor, Vural Savas, ruled there was no legal standing for the appeal. "The Constitutional Court's decisions are final according to the constitution, he said. "Its decisions cannot be appealed."

UN Envoy Prods Cyprus Rivals

ANKARA — The United Nations' special envoy to Cyprus expressed determination Tuesday to restart negotiations for the unification of the divided island.

'The search for a peace settlement must continue," the envoy, Diego Cordovez, said after meeting with Foreign Minister Ismail Cern of Turkey. "We shall not stop; we shall not let this situation continue for any longer."

The UN-brokered negotiations have been deadlocked since August. Mr. Cordovez met separately last week with Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, and Rauf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader.

Mr. Cordovez said he would report the outcome of his mission to the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan. "Probably we will have also a report to the Security Council on this matter," he said, "and I would probably come back to the area quite soon in order to find a way to

Antonio Ribeiro Dies, **Was Primate of Lisbon**

·The Associated Press LISBON — Cardinal Antonio Ribeiro, 69, the Roman Catholic Cardinal of Lisbon who was known for his efforts to modernize the powerful Catholic Church in Portugal, died Tuesday in a clinic in suburban Lisbon after a long

revitalize these negotiations.

battle against cancer. Before his appointment as cardinal in 1971, he was a popular public figure through his weekly religious television programs from 1959 to 1967.

His discreet lobbying and moderate opinions in the turbulent period around the 1974 Revolution, which toppled the 41-year dictatorship, won him broad support in the church.

Beverley Cross, 66, **British Playwright**

LONDON (AP) - Beverand screenwriter who helped launch Dame Maggie Smith on her illustrious acting career and married her 15 years later, died at his home Friday

The cause of death was not Pompano Beach, Florida.

announced, but be had recently been treated for aneurysms.

Maggie Smith starred in his play "Strip the Willow" in 1960. The play did not get a the press had London opening, but her career bloomed because of the strong impression she made in regional tryonts. They were wed in 1975.

Michael Reardon, 60, bar tender to famous writers, mayors, stockbrokers, seamen, singers or any guy who dropped in off the street over the course of 30 years at the Lion's Head bar and restaurant in New York, died Sunday in Fall River, Massachusetts. where he was undergoing treatment for cancer.

Greg MacGregor, 25. a foreign correspondent who ley Cross, 66, the playwright reported on the Korean War as well as economic and political developments in Southeast Asia during a 17-year career at The New York Times. died of cancer Sunday in

eiforeign minister. William Droz.

LOGNE -Madeleine Alle die Eljer powers n step up erco! Yugoslavia was greater the person province

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ap agreed to sanction Tyugoslavia at its proneering in London or that meeting, the group alo consider a compro-

arms ™ Serbia, a halt to seep g equipment that coul id for repression, a denivisas to Yugoslav of a myolved in the crack and an end to expo

BURDEAUX - The chie yer for Maurice Papon, accused Nazi collaborataid Tuesday that charges and that the trial was are aimed at exorcisi ace's guilt for World War laboration.

le lawyer, Jean-Marc Valead attorney for the delearn, began his threeinal argument ahead of a at the end of the week the Bordeaux court than ipon was a scapegoat for s bad conscience. This trial is a way of free

is from our collective of choosing a way ple court decision take Vichy go away s no one else. Varant said his client, six men had succeeded in

M. Papon's innoc he said. "Wha has now become of questions." Papon, 87, is 🗚 children, when n the Brown Varant descrip

respected it. of these he said.

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accused the police of forcing Albanians in villages around

Dubrava in western Kosovo

The Serbian authorities the border with Albania

a policeman was killed and

an ambush by ethnic Albani-

By William Drozdiak Vashington Post Service

COLOGNE - Secretary State Madeleine Albright urged the major powers Tuesday to step up sanctions against President Slobodan vilosevic of Yugoslavia until he shows greater cooperation

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oneral Strike Looms in Green

But as she arrived here Tuesday to prepare for a crucial meeting in Bonn on Wednesday with the six-nation ontact Group monitoring Yugoslavia, Mrs. Albright the other members of the group to sustain a tough at-

Only Britain shares the U.S. view that Mr. Milosevic, whose rump nation consists of Serbia and Montenegro, is more likely to respond to rious effort to restore political autonomy to 1.8 million ethnic Albanians, who make up
90 percent of Kosovo's poplosevic has stopped David to ulation, and the withdrawal THE MPS. from Kosovo of special Serbian police units that killed 80 " one low ethnic Albanians in a crackdown on separatists.

The other members of the Germany, Italy and Russia.

have expressed varying degrees of satisfaction with Mr.

Milosevic's behavior since the group agreed to sanctions Erollkill vious meeting in London on

harries. At that meeting, the group או معاند agreed to consider a comprehensive arms embargo plant plying equipment that could be used for repression, a denial of visas to Yngoslav ofin in ficials involved in the crackdown and an end to export

credits to Belgrade for trade Kosovo information center said they had retaliated when and investment.

Since the meeting, the Serhian police units have been confined to their barracks and to flee attack by heavy Albanian demonstrators have been allowed to conduct peaceful protests. Mr. Milosevic has also promised that Kosovo Albanians will soon in defusing the conflict with be able to study at schools and the troubled province of universities for the first time. universities for the first time since autonomy was rescinded eight years ago.
During a six-hour stopover

to consult with Italy's foreign minister, Lamberto Dini, Mrs. Albright said these actions have not been sufficient anneared to be waging a to ease international pressure lonely campaign to persuade and called on the rest of the Contact Group to maintain sanctions until Yugoslavia complies fully with its demands.

'We have seen too many diplomatic efforts fail to believe that President Milosevic will respond to positive pressticks rather than carrots in sure alone, "she said, "And if meeting the Contact Group's we give him even a shadow of demands. These include a sedone enough, he will as-

She insisted that Mr. Milosevic has stopped far short. of doing what is necessary. 'Serbian security police are digging in, not pulling out, Milosevic has still not committed himself to unconditional dialogue; aid workers - _ _ Contact Group - France, continue to be harassed, and the list goes on," she said. In contrast, Mr. Dini

praised Mr. Milosevic as taking some steps in the right direction and said there was against Yngoslavia at its pre-no reason for the group to be vious meeting in London on "entirely dissatisfied" with Yugoslavia's behavior over the past two weeks.

Fighting in Kosovo a flored

Serbian police and ethnic Albanians in Kosovo on Tuesday, Reuters reported from Pristina, Yngoslavia.

ethnic Albanian

(CARRIED Papon a Scapegoat, Top Defender Says

BORDEAUX - The chief lawyer for Maurice Papon, or, said Tuesday that charges the accused Nazi collaboratagainst his client were shreds" and that the trial was a farce aimed at exorcising France's guilt for World War

Il collaboration. The lawyer, Jean-Marc Varaut, lead attorney for the defense team, began his threeday final argument ahead of a verdict at the end of the week, elling the Bordeaux court that Mr. Papon was a scapegoat for

This trial is a way of freeing us from our collective shame, of choosing a scape-lad goat? Mr. Variant said no other contemporary tragedy had preoccupied historians and shame, of choosing a scape-goot," Mr. Varant said. "But a simple court decision will not make Vichy go away. Papon is being tried because

Mr. Varaut said that although the press had demonized his client, six months of debate had succeeded in proving Mr. Papon's innocence.

"The charges are in shreds," he said. "What was clarity has now become a) cloud of questions."

ordering the arrest for deportation of 1,560 Jews, 223 of them children, when he was the second ingliest-ranking of-ficial in the Bordeaux region and supervisor of its Service for Jewish Questions.

Mr. Varant described the Vichy collaborationist regime as a "legal, republican state" and Mr. Papon as a civil ser-

prately respected it. One must understand the culture of these officials at the time, for whom the highest honor was obedience to the state, he said. This love of the law anesthetized people's

"He is responsible, but not guilty," he said.

In serving the Vichy regime of Marshal Philippe Petain, voted into power after the Nazis defeated and humiliated France, Mr. Papon may have helped carry out a plan to exclude Jews from society, but not to exterminate them, Mr. Varant said.

"Vichy's anti-Semitism was one of exclusion, which aimed to take the Jews out of the civil service, teaching, law, medicine and journa-"he said "But it was not

spiring films and books "to the point of an overdose, which symbolizes the extent of our pain and our shame."

Civil plaintiff lawyers, whose week of final arguments concluded March 16, accused Mr. Varant of historical revisionism.

'When he speaks of an 'overdose,' it is a negationist discourse," said Alain Jak-Mr. Papon, 87, is accused of organizations. "After weeks of trying to appear legitimate, his true nature comes to the surface: He's a man of the extreme-right.'

Mr. Papon went on after the war to serve as Paris police chief from 1958 to 1967. then as budget minister in 1978 until his wartime record surfaced in a newspaper report in May 1981.

The first charges were filed against him immediately afterward, but legal proceedings were repeatedly obstructed by the administration of President Francois Mitterrand, who was reluctant to see France's warnime collaboration dredged up.

Albright Upbeat on Moscow Shake-Up

U.S. to Continue 'Very Good' Relationship With Russia, She Says

COLOGNE - The U.S. secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, on Tuesday defended Boris Yeltsin's right to dismiss his entire cabinet and said the Rus-sian leader was "in charge."
"We are obviously watching what is

going on," Mrs. Albright said in Rome before meeting in Cologne with the Rus-sian foreign minister. "The president is in charge and he has, as a democratically elected leader, the ability to change his

Mr. Yeltsin dismissed his government Monday, but most of the ministers were expected to keep their jobs, in-cluding Foreign Minister Yevgeni Pri-

Mr. Primakov reassured Mrs. Albright that good relations with the United States remained a top priority.

"President Yeltsin has asked me to underscore the fact that Russia's foreign policy will remain unchanged and will not be affected by the changes in the government," Mr. Primakov said before escorting Mrs. Albright to a private dinner at which they planned to discuss the Kosovo crisis and other hot spots.

another seriously wounded in Mr. Primakov said the new government an guerrillas in Dubrava, 20 would push for early ratification of the kilometers (12 miles) from START-2 arms treaty and seek to promote further cuts in strategic offensive weapons.

He also said the work of the U.S.-Russia had no reason to fear problems ahead in economic commission, which was begun U.S.-Russia relations. economic commission, which was begun in 1993 under Vice President Albert Gore and Prime Minister Viktor Chemomyrdin would not be disrupted by Mr. Chemomyrdin's departure.

Mrs. Albright's meeting with Mr. Primakov precede a gathering Wednesday of the Contact Group of major powers to discuss the Serbian crackdown on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

Mr. Albright said in Rome she was looking forward to "continning what is a very good working relationship with the Russian Federation." Her positive tone came despite increasing differ-ences between Washington and Moscow on international issues, including how to ensure that Yugoslavia's president, Slobodan Milosevic, complies with demands by the major powers that he withdraw special police units from Kosovo and start meaningful, unconditional negotiations with ethnic Al-banians in the province. (Reuters, AP)

■ A Surprise for Clinton

Thomas W. Lippman of The Washigton Post reported from Washington: The scope of Mr. Yeltsin's housecleaning caught the Clinton administration by surprise, but President Clinton and other senior officials said they

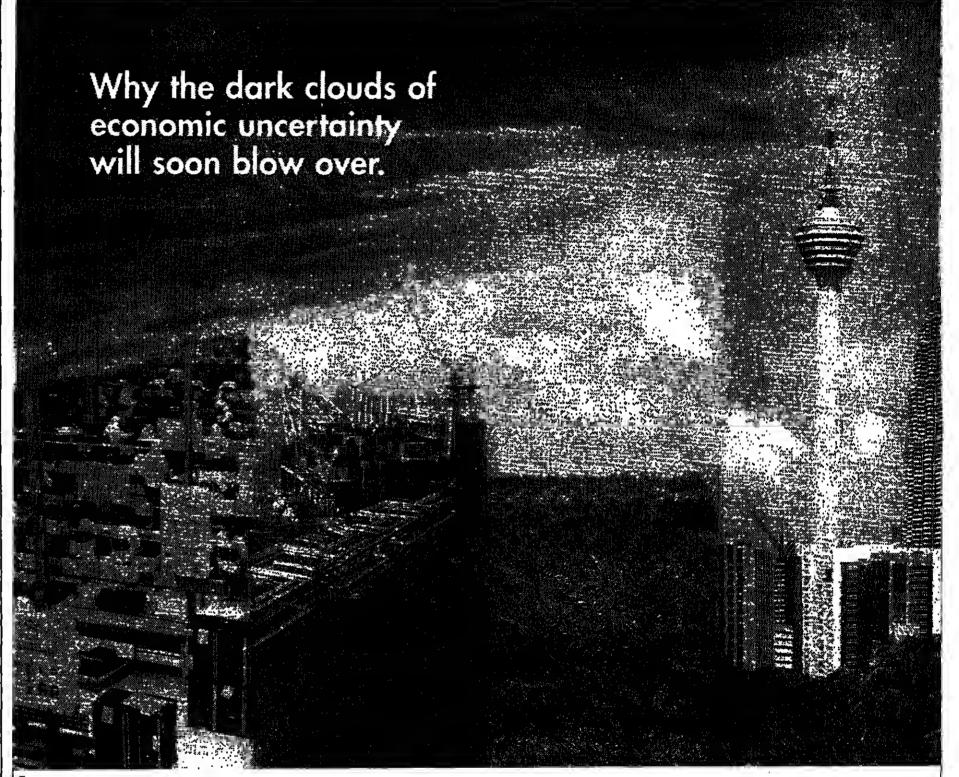
Administration officials said Mr. Yeltsin's decision to dismiss his cabinet was a matter of Russian domestic politics, and they are inclined to accept Mr. Yeltsin's assurances that the shake-up does not signal a change in Russia's

foreign policy or a retreat from economic reform.

"We hope that the general direction of policy will be unaffected by this,"
Mr. Clinton said to reporters in Africa. "And I have no reason to believe that anything different will occur in a way

that's at all adverse to the partnership we've been building with Russia." U.S. officials who participated in working sessions with Mr. Chernomyrdin said they had no indication that the prime minister's days were numbered.

Through their economic commission, Mr. Gore and Mr. Chernomyrdin set up a network of officials in several cabinet departments and emphasized the development of personal relationships among those officials that could survive changes at the top. But when Russian officials encountered bureaucratic or political difficulties in carrying out agreements made in the commission, it was Mr. Chernomyrdin who was called on to get things done.



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MALAYSIA Bullish on Bouncing Back











Increases

PARIS - President Jacques Chirac's dramatic television appeal to fellow cooservatives to renounce support from the extreme-right National Froot in newly elected regional assemblies increased pressure Tuesday on five maverick regional leaders to resign because they had accepted votes from the Front to win their posts.

"I have heard Chirac's message," said Jean-Pierre Soisson, one of the five members of the conservative Union for French Democracy who defied his party's instructions and woo regional assembly leadership posts with National Front votes. The party has suspended all

of the regional assembly in Burgundy, Mr. Soisson said he would meet with the others Wednesday and make a decision.

Former Defense Minister Charles Millon, who accepted National Front votes to become chairman of the regional parliament in Lyon, said nothing Tuesday but had lunch with that city's mayor, who has called on Mr. Millon to put an

In his brief appearance on national television on Monday night, Mr. Chirac described the National Front as 'racist

Mr. Millon, denying in an article written for Le Monde that he had struck any formal agreement on a program with the Front, described its leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, as "a fanatic, a fascist from the 1920s cast up in our time."

Millon to resign, and on Tuesday he de-scribed Mr. Chirac's televised attack as 'an appeal to violence against patriots."

Leftist and student groups plan

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CROSS-CHANNEL REASSURANCE - Prime Minister Tony Blair addressing the National Assembly in Paris during a one-day visit Tuesday. Speaking in French, he said that Britain's future lay in Europe and that it would join the single currency when its economy was ready.

sired effect of getting many people to think harder about a party that now routinely garners more than 15 percent of the national vote, on a program that describes the presence of 3.6 million immigrants as a major cause of both unemployment and crime and calls for them all to be progressively returned to

colonies in North Africa, whose strange

regional assemblies because they use a proportional representation system. The Socialist prime minister, Lionel Jospin,

near Marseille, it has begun giving special 5,000 franc (\$830) "birth allowances" to families that have children,

Mr. Chirac's brief speech had the de- but not to immigrants. National authorities asked an administrative court on Tuesday to invalidate the measure as

> affected the outcome of the voting early Tuesday for the presidency of the key

Balladur dropped out of the running last week, after leading Mr. Chirac's Rally for the Republic party and its Union for French Democracy allies to a poor show-ing in the March 15 election, the conservarives were unable to round up enough votes without the National Front e, A Socialist,

ships of five other regional assemblies, said Tuesday that the system would be and would probably stand to win the five re-examined, as Mr. Chirac had asked in assemblies taken by contractives with

to 35.6 percent nationwide, while the National Front won 15.5 percent.

FRONT: France's Real Bugbear Is Change, Not the Extreme Right

Continued from Page 1

injuries to French democracy makes the

problems seem like political routine. The opposite is true. On a scale of national psychic calamities since the end of World War II, the willingness of a deals with the National Front is unique. Le Monde described the group, which included a former defense minister and another cabinet minister who served governments both left and right, as being tellectual establishment that reacts to the direct descendants of "those who said they preferred Hitler to the Popular Front" government

The context was breathtaking: The National Front's political coup coincided with the prosecution's closing arguments in the trial for crimes against humanity of Maurice Papon, the former Vichy government official and

occupation. A mirror revealing French historical reality in the face of the legend of a nation of Resistance fighters, the trial trol. could only reinforce the embarrassment

tween a part of respectable France and the forces of racism and anti-Semitism. Yet outside the narrow framework of political manenvering, and the obvious references to unemployment and crime, little has been discussed in France about the broader circumstances in which the National Front, a symbol of regression, gained enough credibility to create a

spectacle that Mr. Chirac said astonished the rest of the world. The fact is that both major political currents in France, left and right, spend much of their essential energies in defending what they insist must not change. In finding Anglo-Saxon-in-spired upset in the globalization of the world economy, in the flexibility of labor markets or the domination of the English language in the world's cultural exchange, the political establishment has legitimized the idea of cabals and

occult forces working to repress France.

In this context, France must above all

though largely unavowed) ideology in originality could flower. French mainstream politics, has substanand racist remedies for France's probbe seen as a perverted echo of an instruct within the democratic political and in-novation.

change as a threat to French identity. the left-wing prewar French opinions of a large majority of the

> Little has been discussed in France about the broader circumstances in which the National Front gained credibility.

with modernity here that equates the spiring next to no one. accelerating pace of change in the world with faraway forces out of French con-

This reality is often expressed in the of a new attempt at collaboration bepositions France takes in international affairs. In the last weeks, both the Socialist government and Mr. Chirac, the Gaullist president, have been entirely on the same line in hitterly rejecting a proposed trans-Atlantic free-trade agreement between Europe and the United States that Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel of Germany has described as a taking regional presidencies on the positive plan for change in relations between the two continents.

In finding a certain national satisfaction and legitimacy in maintaining stances that reflect a past and French strengths that oo longer exist - leaning, to react. for example, toward Iraq and away from the United States and Britain in the latest. crisis involving Saddam Hussein — ical mainstream will fail to find the France runs the risk of signaling to a necessary election-law changes to keep home andience that the old ways can be defended and that deals with the devil are there for the finessing.

The same resistance to change ap-

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In their last period in office, the tially legitiruized the refusal to accept parties of the democratic right, voted our oew circumstances at every level of so- after Mr. Chirac dissolved the National ciety. The National Front's attacks on the Assembly last year in precisely the kind development of a multiracial France, its of political manipulation be denounced group of democratically elected politi-cians to save their own jobs by striking in every aspect of life, its protectionist did little to abandoo the statist capitalism lems in creating jobs and safe streets, can til the 1980s, but lost ground in an era of opening markets and private sector in-

The right offered a half-tint vision of the past, focusing on old enemies mo-However nonrepresentative of the bilizing little enthusiasm-and, for the most part, avoiding head-on confrontation with the National Front:

Since it took power 10 months ago, the left has been more Old Socialist than anything akin to the new notions of social democracy taking root in Britain, and now, very possibly in Germany. Perhaps even more importantly than

cabinet minister under President
Valery Giscard d'Estaing, who is
accused of complicity in the death of
thousands of Jews during the German
description of the National Front workweek has foundered as a symbolic disconnected from idealism and in-In a country mosure of its national

sense of purpose, and one often associating change with things making the French feel less themselves, it was no longer inconceivable that the National Front, an emblem of aggressive im-

mobility, could find new friends: Now, after the deals last week that let democratic regional councils become the hostage of a party with fascist reflexes, a number of politicians named their backs Monday on the possibility of strength of National Front support. They have been widely praised, and the president, warning that "I feel the country is losing the sense of things," urged France to realize that the time has come

For all this, the current danger hardly seems to lie in the chance that the politthe National Front further from power. Rather, it is in the prospect that no one within the political establishment will use the new possibility for reassessing pears in the failure of both the demo- how the country reached its predicament cratic left and right to create a new sense to challenge France's notions of greatof political mission for the country, a ness and its deepest problems.

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Chirac Speech Pressure Over Le Pen Deals

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

Asked if he would resign as chairman

former Prime Minister Raymond Barre, end to "this unhealthy situation."

and xenophobic by nature."

Mr. Le Pen reacted by calling on Mr.

demonstrations against the National Front in major cities this weekend.

their countries of origin. The largest single group of immi-grants are Muslims from former French

ways and religion, the National Front says, are not French at all.

The Front has only one member of the national Parliament, but is represented in to elect another c.

The Front also has four mayors in the south of France. In the town of Vitrolles, near Marseille, it has been added to the first seem of th

unconstitutionally discriminatory. Mr. Chirac's remarks also apparently

Ile-de-France region around Paris. When former Prime Minister Edouard

Jean-Paul Huchon, won the post instead. Socialists earlier won the chairman-

In the elections, leftist parties out-polled the conservatives by 39.6 percent

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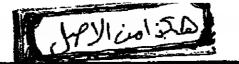
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LEGAL NOTICE

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:

TOSHOKU AMERICA, INC.

Case No. 97 B 48535 (JHG)

NOTICE FIXING LAST DATE FOR FILING PROOFS OF CLAIM TO: ALL CREDITORS WITH CLAIMS NOT LISTED IN THE DEBTOR'S BANKRUPTCY SCHEDULES, OR WITH CLAIMS SCHEDULED AS DISPUTED, CONTINGENT OR UNLIQ-

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on December 24, 1997 (the "Potition Date") the above-named debtor (the "Debtor") filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Title 11, United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York has entered an Order dated March 13, 1998 (the "Claims Bar Order"), directing all persons and entities with claims, as defined in 11 U.S.C. §101 (5), against the Debtor's estate and whose claims are not listed in the Debtor's bankruptcy schedules or whose claims are listed in the Debtor's bankruptcy schedules, to file proofs of claims are in amounts different from that listed in the Debtor's bankruptcy schedules, to file proofs of claims and proper supporting documents.

Form 10, on or before MAY 12, 1998 (the "Bar Date").

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that any claim required to be filed pursuant to the provisions of the Claims Bar Order, and not filed prior to the Bar Date, shall be FOREVER BARRED FROM ASSERTING A CLAIM AGAINST THE DEBTOR AND THE DEBTOR'S ESTATE OR ITS SUCCES-SORS OR ASBIGNS, AND THE HOLDER OF THE CLAIM SHALL BE BARRED FROM VOTING ON A PLAN OF REORGANIZATION (THE "PLAN") OR PARTICIPATING IN ANY DISTRIBUTION IN THIS CASE, BUT SHALL NEVERTHELESS BE BOUND BY THE TERMS OF THE PLAN CONFIRMED BY

ALL PROOFS OF CLAIM MUST BE FILED WITH THE CLERK OF THE BANKRUPTCY OF THE BANKRUPTCY COURT, UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ONE BOWLING GREEN, NEW YORK, NEW YORK, 10004-1408 ON OR BEFORE MAY 12, 1998 AND SERVED ON THE UNDERSIGNED COUNSEL.

SUCH PROOFS OF CLAIMS WILL BE DEEMED FILED ONLY WHEN THEY ARE ACTUALLY

puted, undisputed, secured, or unsecured. Copies of the Claims Bar Order are available for inspection during regular business hours at the

SO ORDERED:

S/ Jeffry H. Gallet JEFFRY H. GALLET UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

cc: Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP. 1333 New Hampshire Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20036 (202) 887-4000 Stanley J. Samorajczyk Attorneys for the Debtor

Davis Polk & Wardwell 450 Lexington Avenue New York, New York 10017 (212) 450-4000 Nancy L Lazar Attorneys for Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors

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Shake-Up in Moscow

Revival of Reform?

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the prime minister abruptly fired by President Boris Yeltsin on Monday, was an apt representative of Russia's ambivalence about reform, which is perhaps why he lasted so long. He took office in December 1992 as an antidote to the radical young reformers who had frightened so many Russians, and he spent five years projecting an image of uninspired and mediocre stability. He proclaimed himself a supporter of reform, and to a point he seemed to learn on the job. But the former Communist apparatchik in him was never far below the surface, and his inbred caution often served to slow or block needed change. The consequent policy muddle has held Russia back.

Most of lineustry in now privatized. but land still cannot be legally bought and sold. Young Russians tool around Europe and the Internet, but Communists and nationalists who resent the West still dominate Parliament, Foreign investment is both courted and feared. As a result, after six full years of transition Russia's economy remains bogged down, while nations that more decisively cast off their Communist ways, like Poland or Estonia, resumed

economic growth long ago.

Is that why Mr. Yelisin fired his loval prime minister, along with the rest of the cabinet? It is impossible to say for sure; Kremlinology did not die with the Soviet Union. The president may have been acting in part to show that, recent illnesses notwithstanding, he remains decisive and in charge. In

keeping with his long-standing tradi-tion of never allowing any potential challenger to gain too much stature, he may have decided that the prime minister had consolidated too much power. Or he may have realized that Mr. Chernomyrdin, a hopelessly dull poliocian, was a failure as heir apparent and that it was time to groom someone else as successor for the next presidential election in the year 2000. It is at least possible, though, that

Mr. Yeltsin fired Mr. Chernomyrdin for the reason he stated in his brief television address on Monday: "to make economic reforms more energetic and effective." The president praised his prime minister for "solidity and reliability," but faulted Mr. Chernomyrdin's team for a lack of "dynamism, inidadve, new viewpoints, fresh approaches and ideas, without which a powerful spurt in the economy is simply not possible."

latest unexpected zig goes in the direction of re-energized reform.

-THE WASHINGTON POST.

No Quick Fixes

Russia's president, Boris Yeltsin, is turning the abrupt dismissal of top govemment officials into his trademark governing cryls. On Monday, only recently back at work after a severe respiratory infection, he surprised Russia and the world by dismissing his prime minister, Viktor Chemomyrdin, along with his entire cabinet, Mr. Yeltsin's achievements over the years have been impressive, but his increasingly mercurial leadership, marked by erratic pronouncements, frequent health crises and sudden removal of top aides. now threatens to undermine Russia's political stability and the confidence of foreign governments and investors.

As acting prime minister Mr. Yeltsin chose Sergei Kiriyenko, a 35year-old technocrat associated with Boris Nemtsov, one of the most reform-minded members of the Chernomyrdin government. No sharp lurches in economic or foreign policy are likely, and many ministers and officials are expected to return in old or new roles. But Mr. Chemomyrdin's departure instantly scrambles the outlook for the 2000 presidential election inties about s smooth succession should Mr. Yeltsin's health further deteriorate.

Mr. Yeltsin hlamed the Cherno-

myrdin government for failing to trans-

Because Mr. Chernomyrdin's ambivalence was so reflective of his society's, any new initiative is likely to spark a counterreaction, any zig to be followed by a zag. The instability discomfits many — Vice President Al Gore, who invested so much in his relationship with Mr. Chernomyrdin; financial investors, who dumped Russian stocks in an initial panic at the news of the government's sacking: business interests who see the prospect of tax reform and other needed changes pushed back again. But instability may be an acceptable price to pay if this

late its economic reforms into a better life for ordinary Russians. That is a fair indictment in a country where life expectancy is shrinking, public services are collapsing and paydays are frequently payless. But by some economermment has not performed badly. It has balted the long slide in output and has controlled inflation. It is still struggling to get taxes paid, although it recently moved to collect from some of

the bigger corporate holdouts. It has strengthened ties with the United States

through twice-a-year meetings of the

Gore-Chemomyrdin commission. These policies are likely to continue under Mr. Kiriyenko and his still-tobe-chosen permanent successor. But so, too, is the pervasive corruption that stained the Chernomyrdin record. Seven giant banking and business groups have close des to the country's most powerful political leaders, and Mr. Yeltsin's own re-election campaign was largely financed by these busi-nessmen and bankers. They have been rewarded with chances to scoop up shares in former state enterprises at

well below market rates. Unfortunately, there are no quick fixes for most of the sufferings that ive soured many But reform would surely be helped by more confidence-inspiring political leadership, from Mr. Yeltsin on down.

maximum hlame for Asia's economic grasp of China's economic realities and

HONG KONG—The United States and China have found a new theme that suits both their interests: Place crisis on Japan, while praising China.

Barely a day goes by without gushing remarks in the West about China's "responsible" attitudes and "cooperapproach. By keeping its currency stable and stimulating demand at home, China, so goes the thesis, is doing what the Asian region wants and needs, while Japan does nothing.

Some commentators have decided that China is now the leading power in Asia. Morgan Stanley's chief economist, Stephen Roach, asserted that a "new Asian leadership is emerging in the wake of the crisis.

Such praise of China adds up to a strategic equivalent of the late China foreign investment boom, into which so many Westerners were sucked, to the detriment of the "shareholder value" that is supposed to rule in the Anglo-Saxon world.

The adulation would surely amaze no one more than Prime Minister Zhn Rongji, a critic of the investmenthanker-driven hubble economics that badly hurt China in 1993-1994 and has devastated Southeast Asia.

Mr. Zhu's strength is a no-nonsense

By Philip Bowring

of the huge task of making Chinese enterprises commercially competent, market-driven and large enough to compete internationally.

China has played its international cards well. It has suggested that its commitment, for now, to hold the yuan steady is driven by neighborly feelings and global responsibility. It has parlayed this into a promise of major concessions from the West on entry into the World Trade Organization.

China's neighbors are grateful for these small mercies. However, they are aware that its policies are driven by self-interest, which will change. China is more a competitor than a solution to their problems.

China's 1994 devaluation was one of several roots of regional distress. Its incentives to foreign investment and its favors to ethnic Chinese are others.

Chinese growth has been important to the rest of Asia, but China is still an insignificant and highly protected market for Southeast Asian manufacturers. Another devaluation remains a possibility next year if exports stagnate and domestic stimulus is inadequate.

By A. M. Rosenthal

by the demands of a huge and difficult

domestic agenda. China's relative immunity from the Asian contagion despite hage overcapacity, cronyism and a worse banking system than Indonesia's has been due mainly to the power of the state (to prop up banks and state enterprises and prevent capital ontflow), not to the

strength of local enterprise. China has huge foreign exchange reserves, but these are largely held in U.S. government securities. It has done nothing to alleviate dollar shortages elsewhere in Asia.

China's reserves policy is sensible. It recognizes that its foreign exchange surplus is probably temporary and should be kept in safe and liquid instruments. Large reserves acquired over a short time can, as Thailand found, diminish almost as fast.

There is a symbiotic relationship now between America and China. Washington can regard ever growing Chinese trade surpluses as relatively benign so long as reserves are reinvested in U.S. instruments. China can make some concessions on the World Trade Organization or promise not to devalue the yuan so long as the U.S. market can provide a spur to its eco-

Stop Touting China as Asia's Leader and Savior China's policies will be determined nomy. But this mutual back-scratching is of little value to the rest of Asia.

Technology, competitiveness of firms and sustained savings surpluses that can be invested long-term are what count among the neighbors.

Asian countries are frustrated by Japan's inability to stimulate its economy or resolve its banking crisis, which has spilled into the region. They suffer from a weak yen and stagnant imports. They believe that Tokyo failed to take a leadership role when the crisis struck. But ultimately the region knows that

it has little to learn from China in ecocomics or politics and almost nothing in industry or education. However flawed their financial and corporate structures, Japan, and to a lesser degree Taiwan and South Korea, remain the Asian examples for the rest of Asia. They are the only non-Western

sources of capital and technology, and of firms that have humbled U.S. and European competitors. China is a generation of further reform away from spawning a Samsung or an Acer, let alone a Honda. China's success in recent years has

been its willingness to stop trying to be a leader and follow others' examples. It remains a follower.

When Beijing Is the Issue, London Should Be Less Atlantic

LONDON — The young man was taking his examination to enter the Foreign Office. His inquisitors threw him a hardball: "What do you think are the most important things in the world?" The applicant thought a moment and answered: "Love and Anglo-American relations."

Raymond Seitz tells the anecdote in his new book "Over Here." He does not guarantee that it took place. But it is a good story and a good book hy Mr. Seitz, the American amhassador here from 1991 to 1994, a best-seller for Weidenfeld & Nicholson, and proof of how interested the British are in at least the second part of the applicant's answer.

The moment Mr. Seitz was appointed by President George Bush in 1991 he became a historic figure — the first U.S. career diplomat to be named ambassador to Britain. President Bill Clinton kept him on a

year and then returned to the tradition of rewarding impor-

tant political hackers. My British friends say their

system of rewarding faithful supporters of the party in power with a seat in the House of Lords, or a Gartership, is much wiser, since neither are nearly as important as amhassadorial posts. But some of the best Amer-

ican ambassadors I have known, from Ellsworth Bunker in the India of the '50s to Felix Rohatyn in the France of the '90s, have been husinessmen who received presidential political appointments. Some of the worst ambassadors, from a cowardly sort in Communist Poland to a man of sweeping idiocy in the shah's Iran, were foreign or U.S. career diplomats. What it all proves I don't know, except that quality counts wherever acquired.

Mr. Seitz has a quality reputation in Britain and is far too sophisticated to buy or sell the idea that the U.S.-British "special relacionship" is always trouble-free.

But the reason so many Americans are so at ease here is not simply because the natives are learning to speak English very well. It is because as peoples and countries we support each other when it counts. Recently, and importantly, America got more support from

Britain than it had earned. In the UN Security Council, the United States asked support for its threat of punishing Saddam Hussein for throwing out UN inspectors hunting for his weapons of mass destruction. The Clinton administration put out stories that h was getting support from the countries that counted — the four permanent members of the Security Coun-

cil, and Arab countries. That was false. In the closed meetings of the council, France, Rossia and China worked against the United States and for Saddam. So did Egypt. But Britain supported

Britain is a good friend, but not a stupid one. The British knew that the Clinton administration did not have plans about what to do if it carried out its bombing threats - no follow-through, no strategy to make bomhing do more than kill the Iraqi civilians Saddam is always ready to see die.

So leadership of the Iraqi crisis passed to China, France and Russia, all slavering for profit and power in the Mideast, And Egypt led the way for Arab allies of the United States to walk out on America.

The Labour government of Tony Blair stayed with the United States, as the Conservaove government of Mar-

Arafat to the table, and 81 per-

cent wishing Mr. Clinton would

bring them to Camp David.

garet Thatcher did when Ronald Reagan bombed Libya for the terrorist killings of two U.S. soldiers in Germany. France would not allow U.S. planes to cross its territory on the way to Libvan targets. But in Geneva this month.

America and Britain did not stand together as much as sin together. Both deserted the struggle to put a UN commission on record about China's homan rights achievements, like poliocal and religious persecution. The Daily Telegraph said London and Washington had "sold the pass" on human rights - betrayed the cause.

I have no hope any longer that Mr. Clinton will change his policy of appeasing China. But perhaps Mr. Blair will listen to the Conservatives and Labourites who tell him that support for the United States should no longer include complicity in selling the pass.

The New York Times.

Suppose Netanyahu Surprised Washington With a 'Yes' same mutations. We are

— THE NEW YORK TIMES. A Feminist Dilemma

The feminist movement has been called to judge whether Bill Clinion is Sexual harassment law is still quite worthy of its allegiance. These are not the first supporters to feel squeezed between principles and an alliance with the president. Welfare advocates and environmentalists have faced similar conflicts. But the feminist response to the women accusing the president has posed with special sharpness the question of philosophical sellout.

Within feminist circles there has been obvious reluctance to denounce the president or support his accusers, given his swom denials and the fact that his political opponents also oppose a liberal agenda on women's rights. But the public and the media expect feminisis to be militant about sexual misconduct, whether or not any law is violated. The hypocrisy charge is sticking because some feminist leaders are making distinctions between Mr. Clinton's behavior and past accusations of sexual harassment against Justice Clarence Thomas and former Senator Bob Packwood.

Gloria Steinem (Opinion, March 24) has argued that Mr. Clinton's alleged actions against Paula Jones and Kathleen Willey did not amount to sexual harassment because he took "no" for an answer after a single crude overture.

Sexual harassment law is still quite new, and its contours have not been defined with precision by the Supreme Court. In general, a plaintiff would have to show that sexual demands were made in exchange for employment benefits, or that the bad conduct was so pervasive that it created a "hostile or abusive" work environment. The Clinton legal team says Mrs. Jones cannot show that she suffered any harm. Mrs. Willey's accusation may not meet that legal standard, either.

But social pressures have greatly restricted the acceptable range for sexual talk or gestures by men in the workplace. That has been a healthy development, based on years of legal work and exhortation by women's advocacy groups. The Clinton case raises the very real possibility that if the president is seen as getting away with gross behavior, more bosses will feel free to behave abominably.

We doubt that Ms. Steinern meant to advocate a new kind of "no harm, no foul" mentality in the workplace. But that is the dangerous implication of her analysis. Any erosion of hard-won progress should concern women's advocates everywhere.

-THE NEW YORK TIMES

By Thomas L. Friedman

WASHINGTON — Bill Clinton has indicated to Benjamin Netanyahu that the turn for changes in Palestinian killed. But what if he surprised between them. If they both accept it, that would be ideal. If not, the United States would have to explain publicly who is of security undertakings. holding up the peace process.

The Clinton proposal re-portedly calls for a 13 percent further Israeli redeployment from the West Bank in three stages over three months, in re- and Jewish leaders, to get it

compromise proposal that it be- with the Israeli pullbacks. These would happen? on incitement to violence, unequivocal abrogation of the Palestinian Covenant, and a range

For weeks now, Prime Minister Netanyahu, knowing that this U.S. proposal was coming, has been fighting a guerrilla diplomatic war, using Congress

United States wants to present to Israel and the Palestinians a behavior that would have to be everyone and said "yes" to the American compromise? What

ment with Labor, on his terms. raelis would probably soar from around 40 percent to around 75 some far-right members would percent, leaving the Labor Party eader, Ehud Barak, completely bolt, but he could govern within the dust. Monday's polls in out them. The National Religious Party would have to de-Israel show a majority of Israeli Jews favoring the 13 percent U.S. compromise, 71 percent facide whether it is an extremist movement committed to holdvoring a more active U.S. effort ing all the West Bank or a party to get Mr. Netanyahu and Yasser

which understands that there must be a compromise and it is better to do it now under conditions of strength.

Ariel Sharon, who also has one foot in the Likud and one in the extreme right, would have to decide whether to follow Mr. Netanyahu in supporting the compromise, in which case he could play an important role in bringing along the other religious parties. Othèrwise, Mr.

Netanyahu could use his popularity to marginalize him. Mr. Netanyahu could point out that most of the U.S.-proposed 13 percent redeployment actually involves turning over West Bank areas now entirely controlled by Israel to Palestinian civilian control, but with Israeli troops still maintaining

overall security control. Mr. Arafat would be in a panic. He knows that this plan would be a good deal for Israel and he is only tentatively saying "yes" because he thinks Mr.
Netanyahu will say "no."

enough public support to form United States, and unifying any government he wanted, in- American Jews and Congress Mr. Netanyahu an overwhelm-Within his ruling coalition, ingly powerful position vis-àvis Mr. Arafat going into finalstatus negoriations. In Baghdad, Saddam Hussein

He would also understand

that by embracing the U.S. plan,

Mr. Netanyahu was closing the

· Mr. Netanyahn would have breach between Israel and the

would have heartburn. He would understand that Mr. Netanyahu's embrace of the U.S. compromise means America's Arah allies would not be able to hide behind Israeli intransigence as an excuse for not joining the next anti-Saddam crusade.

In Damascus, Hafez Assad would be unnerved, seeing a new phase of strategic partner-ship between Israel and the United States that could only weaken Syria's position. King Hussein, meanwhile, would emit a hnge sigh of relief, seeing his risky backing for Mr. Netanyahu finally paying off.

Such a move would force. everyone to give Mr. Netanyahu a second look. By having whittled the United States down to 13 percent (the Palestinians wanted 30), it would establish him as a better negotiator than the Labor Party, hut also one who appreciates the importance

of the U.S.-Israeli relaconship. Those who say that Mr. Netanyahu is a fraud who has been trying to kill Oslo and blame Mr. Arafat for it would have to reconsider.

The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Good Relations

PARIS - M. Gaston Calmette publishes in the Figaro a most interesting conversation which he had with M. Hanotaux, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs. "Our relations with all the Powers," he declared, "are of the best. Difficulties are certainly not wanting on all sides, hut difficulties which are foreseen, discussed and made the subject of negotiations are already diminished. In international politics it is silence which is feared, because it is the worst of misunderstandings.

1923: Alert in Prussia BERLIN - The Popular In-

dependence party has refused to yield to the Prussian decree ordering its dissolution. Herr Adolf Hitler is mobilising his Bavarian Fascisti for an immediate march on Berlin. Herr Karl Severing, the Prussian Social-

Democratic Minister of the Interior, has placed the Green Police on a war footing throughout Prussia. These are the more startling developments follow-ing Herr Severing's exposure of the Independence party's plot to destroy the Republic.

1948: White Settlers JOHANNESBURG - With

100,000 applicants awaiting screening or transportation in Britain alone, South Africa continues to absorb European immigrants. As a result of immigration the white population of South Africa was increased by about 30,000 last year. The need for technicians and skilled workmen to accelerate South Africa's development is a major reason for South Africa's immigration policy. Another, though less publicized, one is the desire to bolster the ratio of whites to blacks in the country's preponderantly colored population.

Herald Cribune

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PARIS - "God is not mocked," Saint Paul advised us; "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." French politicians should sorrowfully be examining their consciences today. The French right has suffered

a moral as well as political implosion as a result of regional elections in recent days in which the extremist National Front won the roughly 15 per-cent of the vote it has received in past national elections, but emerged in a tactical position to throw the presidency of many regional assemblies to either the

right or, by abstendon, the left. Last Friday, in five regional councils, representatives of the mainstream right accepted National Front support and entered into effective collaboradon with the party of Jean-Marie Le Pen.

This week began with the struggle still unresolved in some other councils, including the Paris region - which Mr. Le Pen offered to "give" to the mainstream right in exchange for the presidency of the Côte d'Azur region for himself, an offer which fortunately proved too extravagant for even the most expedient on the main-

stream right. made a dramatic appeal Monday night to members of his own neo-Gaullist party and its conservative and centrist allies to refuse these alliances with the "racist and xenophobic" National Front.

His appeal reinstalled some order in the ranks of the right. Some mainstream conservative politicians had already resigned leadership in councils where the National Front had supplied the decisive votes to elect them. Their followers allowed the alliance of Socialists, Communists and ecologists to take control.

But much damage had been

By William Pfaff

For France, the Fruit of Failure

looking for the political legit-imacy until now denied it by the isolation imposed on it hy the mainstream parties. In five regions it found that legitimation. The National Front is racist, chauvinist, anti-Semitic, hostile to the European Union, hostile to the political values of the French Republic, and and-American. Its leader, Mr. Le

Pen. is a vulgar demagogue. The party is also a vehicle of popular protest against the unemployment and social deteri-oration and violence that mainly punish the working class, both immigrant and nonimmigrant. It is populist, and-elitist and anti-establishment.

There has always been a reactionary, populist and xenophobic right in France. In the past it was often more intelligently led and enjoyed greater support than is the case today. The reason the National Front is now in a position of particular strength is that the mainstream

parties put it there. The late Socialist President François Mitterrand caused proportional representation to be installed for both regional President Jacques Chirac and legislative elections, specifically to promote the national visibility of the National Front

and thereby divide the right. The present Socialist prime minister, Lionel Jospin, while successfully trying to carry out a moral rehabilitation of his own party, has exploited the exclusion of the National Front while expressing his pride to be allied with the Communist Party.

The French Communist

Party is not today what it once

was, but nonetheless is

burdened with a history of su-

pine and duplicitous subordin-

ation to the interests of a foreign

totalitarian state. There is not

much there in which either it, or

certainly its democrade allies, should take pride. Mr. Mitterrand was also, as

now has become clear, leader of a government with a deeply corrupt inner circle, where the constitutional order and public confidence were cynically ahused. The presidency which succeeded, that of Jacques Chirac, has had nothing so spectacularly sordid to reveal to voters, but has

been persistently mired in lesser corruption involving personal privilege as well as party profiteering. All this has contributed to electoral alienadon, mounting abstention and the success of the National Front Mr. Chirac was elected on eloquent promises to heal social

divisions and create employ-ment, but failed to do either, and in the absence of an effective program last year he ordered a senseless dissolution of the National Assembly which, to his surprise, installed the left in power, demoralized his own electorate, alienated his political followers and created the atmosphere of sauve-qui-peut which precipitated the fiasco that now has overtaken the mainstream right.

Many are now talking about institutional change for France. A characteristic reaction of the French to political crisis is to change the constitution.

The fundamental problem is

not hard to identify. It simply is hard to solve, given commitments to Europe and to fiscal conservatism, and the institutional obstacles to joh creation. If the government could put the young to work, it would be on its way toward solution of

the social, economic and secu-

rity tensions that have created

Mr. Le Pen's following and de-

moralized the mainstream right

and left. So far, it, like its predecessor, has failed to do so. International Herald Tribune. Los Angeles Times Syndicute

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INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1998

OPINION/LETTERS

A Bright Promise Lost: The Tragedy of Clinton

By Richard Cohen

WASHINGTON — Long before Joe Klein was outed as the author of "Primary Colors, "he asked me what I thought of the book.
"Not much," I innocently

replied. We were driving from New Hampshire to Boston at the stime and I don't recall Mr. Klein veering across the median strip or in any other way giving away his secret: I do remember him saying, though, that the book re-minded him of what we -- some journalists — had once seen in Bill Clinton. I nodded to that.

Now, several years later. I have seen the movie based on the book twice, once as the terrific political comedy it certainly is, the second time as the political tragedy it is fast becoming.

The film contains precisely the sort of scenes that Mr. Klein was referring to when he men-tioned Mr. Clinton's early promise: a frank speech to unemployed New Hampshire shipyard workers and another in which the candidate meets with adults enrolled in a literacy program.

Both scenes are about an emphasis on continuing education. Now, it just so happens that in real life the real president has an education program before Congress, where it is going nowhere fast. Not only do the Republicans have an alternative plan, hut they happen to control Congress. The Republicans, not the president, will determine

education legislation this year. Even under the best circumstances, Mr. Clinton would be fast becoming a lame duck. But these are not the best circumstances. The president has yet to run the gantlet of the Paula Jones civil trial and Kenneth Starr's criminal investigation. Even if he is exonerated in the Jones case and Mr. Starr takes no action, the fruits of the independent counsel's inves-

tigation will go to Congress. Hearings may be held, im-peachment demanded. For Mr. Clinton, some rough days lie ahead.

So the president, unlike any other president riding toward his political sunset, is not going to have the luxury of keeping an eye on history. Instead, he is going to have to keep an eye on his base - the very people who elected him. Significantly, that means women, especially feminists, and organized labor.

The unions beat Mr. Clinton last year on "fast track" trade legislation and, at one time, the president accused some Democrats of caving in to union pressure. Now maybe he will cave in. He can ill afford to alienate some of the very people he is going to need if he gets into a fight for his survival. In addition, he needs union money to help him elect an impeachment-proof Congress.

Similarly, it is not likely that the president will compromise with Republicans on legislation

diminished and he remains a man preoccupied by a threat to his presidency so serious that he has tepid anti-abortion language. invoked the Nixonian stall of executive privilege. He last held a full-hlown news conference on

> prime minister. Even at photo-ops, the shouted questions are about Monica Lewinsky and related matters. This president, polls or no polls, is besieged and he must have left for Africa with a whoop of glee and a "whew" of relief. Tragedy, as the Greeks knew, is

created by a personal weakness. In Mr. Clinton's case, that alleged weakness has turned what could have been a successful

second term — an incredible

with Tony Blair, the British

economy, a soaring stock market and a foreign policy that, whatever its faults, has not produced a single American combat casualty - into a tragedy.

come, as he virtually suggested in his book, to naught.

hater, then none of this matters very much. But if you think that those New Hampshire workers really do need continuing education and that adult literacy is important - that class size onght to be reduced and national testing instituted - then you can appreciate that more than a man's reputation has been lost.



to fund either the United Nations or the International Monetary Fund if it means accepting even

In the view of some key Republicans, a deal could be made on IMF funding if only President Clinton would give just a bit on abortion language.

But he won't, or he can't... Leading feminists, after all, have stood by him, finding reasons why accusations of sexual harassment are one thing for a Supreme Court nominee, quite another thing for a president. (How many feminists can dance on the head of a pin?)

The irony is that Mr. Clinton's soaring approval ratings have almost no meaning here in Washington. Here his clout is vastly The promise that Mr. Klein

Feb. 6 — and that was a joint one and some others discerned has

If you happen to be a Clinton-

So has a once-hright promise. The Washington Post.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

One does not embark on a long

On Cloning

Citation will diage Regarding "Common Sense About Cloning" (Opinion, March Pocasing Chr. 16) by Steve Jones: S. C. mservauves z

Mr. Jones's article suggests that scruples about human cloning in United Sac are religious or moral and areincluded fostered by zealots. This is not necessarily true; I can think of at least two objections of a different

The basic principle of evolution Till (1) With a Yes changing environment through tandom gene mutations. We are is that species adapt to the everwhat we are because the survivor

qualities of the fittest were transmitted to their progeny through their genes (along with random gene mutations).

That we live longer today more because of medical advances than because of fitness may be partly due to the fact that survival in the modern world is better ensured hy brain than muscle.

Cloning freezes this natural process, since genes are identically copied from one individual to his or her offspring. The world, however, keeps changing.

The second objection is social.

and expensive research program without a fair idea of where it leads. I am not certain that the "extreme limit" conditions one has to be prepared for the worst --- of a clone society have

I agree that human cloning will not be stopped. What must he stopped are the hysterical condemnations, from whatever pulpit, that prevent a serene, methodological approach to such a sensitive topic.

been seriously studied.

LÚCIO MARGHERITA.

Clinton's Behavior

Many Republicans appear taken aback by the American people's support for Bill Clinton and claim that once obstruction of justice has been shown such support will vanish.

This is wishful thinking. The American people perceive what the politicians try to obfuscate when they liken Mr. Clinton to Richard Nixon: that there is a world of difference between concealing criminal behavior and concealing legal behavior.

If Mr. Clinton should deny un-

der oath that he had eaten 10 hot dogs the tright before, that should hardly be cause for impeach-

> HENRY BLUMENFELD. Gif-sur-Yvette, France.

E. J. Dionne ("It's Time to Wrap Up the Capital Sideshow," Opinion, March 20) asks if we will spend the next 22 months talking about Mr. Clinton's sex life. Shouldn't that be the next 34 months, since the president's term ends in January 2001?

BERNARD SINSHEIMER. Boulogne, France.

In Today's 'New Family,' Children Often Suffer

By Rachel Elboim-Dror

TERUSALEM — The "new J woman" is on her way. She is assertive, climbing the corporate ladder, sharing the political, economic, social and cultural world with men. At long last she is beginning to be seen and heard in the corridors of power.

In the vast continents of Asia and Africa, most people are

MEANWHILE

caught up in the daily struggle for survival, unaware of the emergence of the new woman. But in the West she is ubiquitous.

She is creating a new family culture that has not been fully grasped by society or social scientists. Yet its impact will strike us soon, catching us unprepared.

The traditional family is disappearing in the middle class. Inslead of a family made up of hreadwinning man and caregiver/ housekeeper woman, a bipolai structure of two breadwinners -

supposedly equals — is emerging. But "equality" is tricky. Some women try to accomplish both roles, fulfilling the traditional ohligations of mother, spouse, cook, housekeeper and sexual partner while at the same time holding a responsible job and

competing in the marketplace. Other women capitalize on both worlds, expecting men to support them while they chant feminist slogans and demand that men share in the housework and in

the upbringing of the children. The real victims of this new family culture are the children. While men and women struggle to establish a new modus vivendi, children pay the price for the confrontation.

In the traditional family, the hierarchy was firmly established and the division of labor was clear. Now, the clash of two family heads demanding priority for their professional and personal interests hreeds a culture of selfishness, which rocks the supportive structure essential for children's growth.

In the conflict between the parents, the children's needs are often dispensed with. Both parents are too busy with self-fulfillment to attend to others, especially when those others happen to be children, who are unable to articulate their needs and demand their rights.

Children, parked in nurseries from a very early age, often see their parents for only an hour or two a day during the week and on

weekends. Some feel superfluous. New women, conditioned by feminist culture to give priority to their own needs and interests, as men do, find taking care of children more than they can cope with. They relegate this responsibility to whatever outside or

live-in help they can get.
This new family culture is often discussed from a male point of view: how it affects a man's selfimage and masculinity. Scant attention is paid to how it affects children and their future as adults.

Feminists feel that the new woman should not be hlamed for the consequences of age-old male dominance, which is now breaking down. They may be right. But should society rectify one wrong. by exchanging it for another?

The writer, o professor of educotion policy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, contributed this comment to the International Herold Tribune.

Good Day Care

RESEARCH on U.S. day care has produced a shocking report card. The quality of care in the majority of centers is poor to mediocre.

We know the ingredients that lead to high quality: better staffto-child ratios, staff education, specialized training and improved teacher wages.

For too long, the dehate has centered on whether day care is good or bad for children.

The debate is over, Recent federal research has shown that children who receive high-quality day care are no different from children

raised at home. The challenge to the United States is not whether we should have day care for our youngest citizens, or whether the federal government should be in the hasiness of providing day care, hut how well we can do it.

-Michael D. Kaplan, a professor of child psychiatry of Yale's Child Study Center, commenting in The Hartford (Connecticut) Courons

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Launch date: April 6, 1998.

U.S. Plays Anti-Libya Card in Prague

Americans Are Warned Not to Stay at 2 Hotels Linked to Tripoli

By Peter S. Green International Herald Tribune

PRAGUE - Two of Prague's top hotels have been-blacklisted by the U.S. government because they have been pur- The Middle East Economic Digest has chased by a company with purported links to the government of Libya, and American travelers have been warned 300-bed hotel in Tripoli, Libya's capital. visited Prague in 1990 and U.S. Comthat they could face criminal penalties if The U.S. Embassy said American merce Secretary William Daley stayed they stay at them.

. The Hotel Forum and the Hotel Panorama were bought this week hy the husiness with any hotels owned hy Cor-Corinthia Group, a Maltese company with a Libyan partner.

An advisory issued by the U.S. Embassy in Prague said the United States considered the Corinthia Group, and therefore its hotels, to be the property of the Libyan government.

foreign husinessmen to New York

through newspaper advertisements for

Bronx district attorney's office said.

pleaded guilty this month to four

counts of rohbery, three in connection

with a trio of Israeli businessmen lured

placed in the International Herald

Tribune soliciting large orders of

U.S.-made hlue jeans from overseas

bought a hotel in Budapest.

The company owns hotels in Malta, Turkey, Tunisia and Hungary, as well as five other hotels in the Czech Republic. hihition may be subject to crim civil penalties under U.S. law." reported that the chairman of Corinthia,

travelers and companies could be pros-ecuted for eating at, staying in or doing was sold to Corinthia. ecuted for eating at, staying in or doing inthia. The same penalties apply to a partment in Washington said Corinthia travel agency owned by the company, was on a list of companies or people the Czech International Travel.

The embassy said: "Financial transactions with those establishments. including payment for lodging and meals. are prohibited by the Libyan Sanctions The United States made a similar Regulations," an American law that

warehouse in November 1996 to close

bound and rohbed at gunpoint of

\$38,180 in cash and a watch worth

years in prison, to run concurrently

Mr. Merlinn was also found guilty of a 1995 knifepoint rohbery of a

gued about the price of a shipment of

his motel room and rohbed him of

lue jeans.
Mr. Merlino followed the man into

warning a year ago when Corinthia prohibits any contact with Libyan organizations. "U.S. persons, organizations or businesses violating this prohibition may be subject to criminal and

The Hotel Forum is popular with husinessmen and upscale tour groups. Pres-Alfred Pisani, plans to build a \$9 million, ident George Bush stayed there when he 300-bed hotel in Tripoli, Libya's capital. visited Prague in 1990 and U.S. Com-

A spokeswoman for the Treasury De-United States contends are acting on behalf of the Libyan government. But she said the United States was not planning mass arrests of American tourists in Corinthia-owned hotels.

We are trying to stop the Corinthia Group, which we have determined is acting on behalf of the Libyan gov-ernment, from receiving financial ben-efit from U.S. citizens, "said the spokeswoman, Beth Weaver. "It's not the individual traveler."

The United States nightened its re-

strictions on doing husiness with Lihya after investigators linked the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, to agents working for the secret service of Moarmar Gadhafi.

The UN Security Council has required all member states to freeze any assets owned or controlled by the Libyan government or any Lihyan entity.

Christopher Smith, a lawyer in Prague with Lovell, White & Durand, which represented Corinthia in the deal, said Mr. Pisani objected "strennously" to the embassy warning, saying the group has only "a minority Libyan shareholder."



Janet Museveni, the wife of the Ugandan president, holding a parasol over Mr. Clinton on Tuesday while they watched schoolchildren dance.

IRAQ: 'Father' of Germ Weapons Is Jailed

When the husinessmen came to a \$10,000 in cash.

Robber Who Used False Ads Gets 15 Years

NEW YORK - A man who lured the deal with Mr. Merlino, they were

blue jeans only to roh them has been \$7,000, the district attorney's office

sentenced to 15 years in prison, the said Monday. He was sentenced to 15

to New York by advertisements Danish husinessman after the two ar-

Nelson Merlino of the Bronx with a term he is already serving on a

weapons charge.

Continued from Page 1

clothing importers.

with disarming the country of nuclear, chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction. But the documents have not proved useful to UN inspectors, who had already ohtained copies of most

Mr. Hamdoon said Mr. Hindawi was available to be interviewed by UN representatives at any point and noted that the inspectors had already spoken to him 'dozens of times.'

'dozens of times.'

Saturall's please to pulled the following spice of pulled the properties and other sensitive places.

Richard Butler, chairman of the spe-

But Mr. Tocker said Mr. Hindawi prison and stressed the importance of debriefing him in a neutral setting. UN inspectors have seized hundreds of thousands of pages of Iraqi documents through their inspections across the country, hut they need insiders, he said, to put together pieces of the germ

weapons puzzle. dam Hussein's son-in-law, Lieutenant General Hussein Karnel, gave the in-spectors their higgest breakthroughs in understanding the Iraqi germ program. had hoped that Mr. Hindawi could

Baghdad Denies

Report It Planned

To Poison Britain

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq denied accusations in Britain on Tuesday that

it had threatened to smuggle deadly

A tabloid, The Sun, reported that

President Saddam Hussein plotted to flood Britain with the toxin. The

newspaper theorized that the toxin could be hidden in duty-free bottles

of alcohol, cosmetics, cigarette lighters and perfume sprays.

The newspaper reported that a March 18 intelligence document

contended that the Iraqi government

had plotted to smuggle large quantities of anthrax into "hostile coun-

A spokeswoman for the office of

As a result, Britain's air and sea

A minister at the Home Office,

Mike O'Brien, said Tnesday on the BBC that he did not believe "there

is any imminent threat to Britain,

but from time to time in this dan-

gerous world, there are warnings

which our very capable security ap-

said. "But there are certainly no

grounds for scaremongering over this or for frightening people. This

is not the first terrorist warning that

we've had and I suspect it won't be

the last, and we are able to deal with

He added that there was no "likelihood that Saddam or Saddam's

agents would be likely to put the

anthrax in duty-frees in the vague

hope that some British tourists

weapons inspector for the United Na-

tions who last year uncovered ev-

idence of a biological weapons pro-

gram, agreed that it was difficult to

deliver anthrax in a dangerous form.

"If it was really being sent like this, in bottles, it's quite difficult to

keep alive and to get it out in a form

that might actually kill somebody,'

Colonel Terry Taylor, a former

would pick it up.

"We're vigilant," Mr. O'Brien

paratus is able to respond to."

ports have been put on alert, the spokeswoman said.

Prime Minister Tony Blair con-firmed Monday that the document

anthrax to the United Kingdom.

provide similarly valuable testimony. Mr. Tucker said the United Nations As for the papers Mr. Hindawi was reportedly holding, Iraqi nfficials said they had turned them over to the UN Special Commission, which is a large option of presidential sites that the United Nations is now also the United Nations is now also the United Nations is now also that the United Nations are could well learn more from a candid interview with Mr. Hindawi than from the inspections of presidential sites that the United Nations are could well learn more from a candid interview with Mr. Hindawi than from the inspections of presidential sites that the United Nations are could well learn more from a candid interview with Mr. Hindawi than from the inspections of presidential sites that the United Nations are could well learn more from a candid interview with Mr. Hindawi than from the inspections of presidential sites that the United Nations are could well learn more from a candid interview with Mr. Hindawi than from the inspections of presidential sites that the United Nations are could well learn more from a candid interview with Mr. Hindawi than from the inspection of presidential sites that the United Nations are could well learn more from a candid interview with Mr. Hindawi than from the inspection of the United Nations are could well learn more from a candid interview with Mr. Hindawi than from the inspection of the United Nations are could well learn more from a candid interview with Mr. Hindawi than from the inspection of the united Nations are could well learn more from a candid interview with Mr. Hindawi than from the inspection of the united Nations are could well learn more from a candid interview with Mr. Hindawi than from the inspection of the united Nations are could well learn more from a candid interview with Mr. Hindawi than from the inspection

in relations between the United Nations

The United States nearly went to war last month to gain the inspectors access to germ plants and sites that contain information about them. Since then the United Nations has started to test Mr. Saddam's pledge to permit the inspec-

cial commission, arrived in Baghdad on would never be able to talk freely in a Sunday to plan the first inspection of

Mr. Butler could not be reached for comment on the arrest or on whether he intended to raise the issue with Iraq. But Western officials in New York said Iraq had disclosed Mr. Hindawi's arrest to a team of UN inspectors at meetings that

Iraqi officials asserted that Mr. Hindawi was fleeing to an unidentified "rogue" nation and described his arrest understanding the Iraqi germ program.

(General Kamel was killed after he returned to Baghdad.) Western officials

as part of its effort to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. One senior Western official dis-

> sketchy. A microbiologist by training, he carned his doctorate from Mississippi predictability and order, which are hard State University in Starkville in 1969. to guarantee even in the new Africa. Associates said he speaks fluent English.

The effort went poorly, and some of those involved were imprisoned by the

In 1983, weapons inspectors say, Mr. Hindawi wrote a secret report that outlined for top officials of the ruling Ba'ath Party how the program could be turned into a major military asset with largescale production of weapons of mass

The paper, written when Iraq was los-ing its hitter war with Iran, has never been

Nations that it had a hige impact.

Within a year, the Iraqi officials said, the regime ordered the directors of the staying, to prison sentences and caning. germ weapons research complex at a site called Al Muthanna. Designated a presidential priority, the project at Al Muthanna was exempted from the usual spending and personnel constraints, Iraqi scientists have told former inspectors.

Mr. Hindawi has told associates that being defeated by Iran.

anthrax, which was loaded at another site into bombs and missile warheads. Mr. Hindawi was said to have left his joh as a consultant to the weapons program in late 1989 or early 1990, shortly before

was removed from his post at Al Hakam after quarreling with senior officials over financial irregularities in the pro-Baghdad, where he has taught since.

■ Talks Leave Butler Optimistic

Mr. Butler ended two days of talks in Iraq on Tuesday by praising its new mood of cooperation, which he said could help him swiftly finish his work, Reuters reported from Baghdad.

Mr. Butler said his talks with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz had shown a welcome change from their last rancorous meeting, in January: "Today was a light-year different." He said progress had been made toward accounting for

such sites by a special group of scientific inspectors and UN diplomats.

missed that claim as "laughable."

Details about Mr. Hindawi's career are

Iraq is said to have begun its germ weapons program in the early 1970s.

destruction.

surrendered to weapons investigators, hut Iraqi officials have told the United

poison-gas program to create a separate

prosecutor in the case as having said.
Earlier this month, Singapore's prime
minister, Goh Chock Tong, expressed concern over the immigrants. "If we see them he joined the effort only because he believed his country was in danger of

Iraq has told the inspectors that at various times from 1989 to 1991, Mr. Hindawi was the managing director of Al Hakam, the sprawling complex that became Iraq's primary germ weapons production installation.

Scientists at Al Hakam made tons of the Gulf War.

Former inspectors said Mr. Hindawi gram. He was sent to a university in

missile warheads and chemical agents that Iraq says it has destroyed.



AN OPEC MEMBER RUNNING DRY - Cars and trucks waiting in line for fuel at the Nigerian capital, Abuja. Nigeria, a member of the oil cartel OPEC, has been suffering a fuel shortage for a week.

CLINTON: Just by Visiting, the President Shows African Countries Some Rare Respect

Continued from Page 1

equate. Transportation links among African countries remain primitive.

That is a formula certain to worry

The chosen White House instrument Act, which the House of Representatives approved this month. Senate action is

pending.

The legislation forms the background the United States without the rican affairs, as "pretty good

the Sunday Times reported.
"We are literally a nation besieged.

and a lot of manpower and resources have to be deployed to block their entry until

the waves of such immigrants subside,"

the newspaper quoted the unidentified

in large numbers, the situation is going to

skippers sentenced to be caned on Monday,

the police have used the country's Internal

Security Act, which allows authorities to

hold suspects without trial, for those

thought to be harboring illegal aliens.

tabilize Malaysia and Singapore," he told a German newspaper in an interview. In Malaysia, in addition to eight boat hindrance of tariffs or quotas. Critics argue that the act would allow foreign corporations to huy African resources at fire-sale prices and exploit low-wage African labor.

'This hill nakedly and unqualifiedly promotes the interests of American basiness." said one vocal foe, Randall Robinson of the lobhying group TransAis the Africa Growth and Opportunity frica. "It should be called the African recolonization act, because the United States and Europe have the money and

would grab the assets." Mr. Clinton has chosen an itinerary of this trip. It seeks to promote the pri-vatization of government enterprises ministration sees as success stories that will take him to countries the adacross Africa, with sales of state assets countries described in carefully modopen to all corners, including foreigners. ulated terms hy Susan Rice, the influ-In return, African countries could export ential assistant secretary of state for Af- gotiations that have not brought peace.

performers, economically and political- Clinton will meet with its leader, , all things cousidered.

One aim, she said in an interview in Washington, is to show Americans "the side of Africa that's not bodies floating down rivers.

The president himself was less guarded in remarks hroadcast throughout the continent before his arrival, talking of "an Africa whose political and economic accomplishments grow more impressive each month."

That is a very carefully edited Africa. It excludes Somalia, where 18 U.S. soldiers died five years ago trying to end chaos and famine: it still has no government. It excludes Angola, where the United States is promoting peace ne-

It excludes the Congo, although Mr.

Laurent Kabila, during a stop in Uganda. Mr. Kabila seems to be drifting into the cruel and corrupt pattern of the man he deposed only last year, Mohuto Sese Seko, and the decision to include him on the schedule came only after a heated

argument in the administration. Most important, it excludes Nigeria, which, with South Africa, is the most important country in sub-Saharan Africa

in terms of population and resources.

Administration officials speak enthnistration and the control of the con 'the new face of Africa'' and about a new hreed of democratically inclined leaders. But Mr. Moose, warning that the picture is spotty, describes such com-ments as "a pretty thin batter they're spreading."

MALAYSIA: Major Drive Against Illegal Immigrants From Indonesia Is Under Way "Now there are only some 3,000 left, street by The Sixteen which is widely covered on television and is featured daily on newspaper front pages, is as much an effort to turn back sia to work in the construction industry or plantation sector, or as maids. During the recent boom years, a labor shortage reday, referring to periodic police sweeps against a sit is to plantation sector, or as maids. During the recent boom years, a labor shortage reday, referring to periodic police sweeps against a sit is to plantation sector, or as maids. During the recent boom years, a labor shortage reday, referring to periodic police sweeps against a sit is to plantation sector, or as maids. During the recent boom years, a labor shortage reday, referring to periodic police sweeps and the short plantation sector. The plantation sector is a sit is to plantation sector, or as maids. During the recent boom years, a labor shortage reday, referring to periodic police sweeps at that have netted more than 1,000 people is a labor short plantation.

prevent others from ever launching.

"If we're possyfooting and not sure what we're going to do, that will lead to more people coming, because they will think they can get away with it," said Abdull Razak Abdullah Baginda, executive director of the Malaysian Strategic Research Center, a government-linked think tank.

For many Indonesians, the incentives a government-linked think tank.

For many Indonesians, the incentives hut they were putting up our huildings. It was a dilemma we had to live with for 15 years."

Foreign workers were helping change in dealing with the repatriations," he said.

Malaysia, supplying

With uncertainty and crisis last year, the Malaysia call crisis last year.

With uncertainty call crisis last year, the Malaysia call crisis last year. But with Indonesia's economy in shambles, Jakarta's participation could be limited.

"We know the Indonesian authorities are not going to make this a top pri-ority," Mr. Razak said. "They have problems of their own.

RUSSIA: Yeltsin Gives Foreign and Defense Ministers a Reprieve

countries as Malaysia or Singapore.

Not only are wages higher in those countries, but both the Malaysian ringgit and the Singapore dollar have appre-

Analysts say that Malaysia's high-ciated sharply against the Indonesian Hamzah, police chief of Selangor, the profile anti-illegal immigrant campaign, rupiah in recent months—a boon to those state where the airport is situated.

Continued from Page 1

up chronic wage and pension arrears, hut Mr. Chernomyrdin's government failed to resolve the problem.

Mr. Yeltsin's decision to turn his government upside down has not been fully explained, and on Tuesday fingerpointcontinued. Newspapers that hack Chemomyrdin targeted Boris Berezovsky, an industrialist, as the plotter, while Mr. Berezovsky's television channel mocked those who put him at the center of the action.

■ Warnings of Instability Ahead

Many liberal commentators warned that Mr. Yeltsin's cahinet purge could destahilize Russia just as the economy

slow down the fulfillment of the goals set out by Viktor Chernomyrdin's government, such as promoting economic growth, curbing inflation and carrying out tax and social reform," the liberal daily Segodnya said.

The reasons for Mr. Yeltsin's move remained obscure, but many commentators said a central motivation could have been his awareness of Mr. Chemomyrdin's growing political ambitions. Backing that view, the pro-government Our Home Is Russia party said Tuesday that Mr. Chernomyrdin would most likely be their candidate for president in the 2000 election. Mr.

starts to rebound. The Associated Press reported from Moscow.

"The political crisis in Russia will chief, Vladimir Ryzhkov.

large-scale projects as the Kuala Lum-

pur International Airport. Once there were 25,000 illegal immigrants working

at the site, according to Kamaruddin

But others suggested that Mr. Chernomyrdin's dismissal would be the effective end of his political career, because he has been so closely tied to the president that he will be unable to rally support on his own. "We can pronounce the once-super-powerful premier politically dead," said the husiness daily Kommersant.

Mr. Ryzhkov noted that "the entire political situation in Russia will change if Mr. Yeltsin seeks a third term. There has been speculation that he might do so if the Constitutional Court rules that his first term, which began under the old Soviet Constitution, does not count toward Rus-

Rome Offers a Bill To Cut Workweek

ROME — The Italian govern-ment approved a draft hill Tuesday to cut the workweek to 35 hours from 40 hours by 2001, Industry Minister Pierluigi Bersani said.

The hill, which the center-left government promised in a hid to satisfy its far-left allies from the Refounded Communist Party but which has been rejected by employers, now goes to the lower house, the Chamber of Deputies. If approved there, where Prime Minister Romano Prodi's government relies on the former Communists for its majority, the hill goes to the Senate.

AFRICA:

norance.

Past U.S. 'Sins' Noted

Continued from Page 1

"very carefully" to President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda earlier in the day

when the two leaders met, and Mr.

Museveni discussed "the history of Africa, the history of Uganda, the future,

what mistakes had been made in the

"Perhaps the worst sin America ever

committed about Africa." Mr. Clinton

He added, "We have never been as

Mr. Clinton was speaking at the

said, "was the sin of neglect and ig-

involved in working together for our

mutual benefit, for your children and for

Mukono village school, nestled amid ba-

nana trees and coffee plants outside

Kampala. The president and Hillary Rod-

ham Clinton, escorted by Mr. Museveni

and his wife, Janet, were greeted by

schoolchildren in brilliant pink uniforms,

Inside the school, the children demon-

strated their education by naming the

U.S. president, and pointing to the United States and Uganda on a map.

"Congratulations on your lessons, very impressive," Mr. Clinton said.

"Thank you for making me feel so wel-

come." The Clintons and the Musevenis

later joined some of the children in a

and other infectious diseases.

tions."

Milton Obote,

Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Clinton and Mr.

Museveni met privately for about 30

minutes, and then as part of larger hi-lateral delegations. Mr. Clinton said he

had spoken about trade and investment

with Mr. Museveni, whose market-oriented economic reforms have won U.S.

praise as a role model for Africa, and discussed "improving political condi-

A U.S. official, speaking at the Nile

Conference Center in Kampala where

the traveling White House press corps

was honsed, said the United States

would continue to press Uganda to open

up its "no-party" political system. But he said the country had made significant

progress toward democracy under Mr. Museveni, who took power in 1986 after

the murderous regimes of Idi Amin and

official said. "This place was a disaster.

Monica Lewinsky sex scandal from in-

trading on his role as a statesman, telling

reporters at a photo session that the issue

should only be discussed "back

'He's made a lot of progress," the

who elapped and sang a welcome.

ours as we should have been."

BLOOM

Mr. Clinton also used the occasion to announce proposals for \$182 million in aid programs for education, health and improved food security for Africa. The proposals included a \$120 million aswhe Thames sistance program for African schools and universities, a \$61 million Africamybris Cambridge See AND THE IS DEINE wide program aimed at improving qualand an available ity, safety and distribution of crops, and gett. on in Richmond a new \$1 million grant to fight malaria

of said of others and george of composaces in To world's a no and shrubs. All gertather up the The Juguiri, ant Tuder increase also may per the farmous Beet and solven got the Crown Com-Files Tower Bridge Sales from 10 A.M. Long reades magnificant pr

war and again 🗱 lardon tourists vid all point for Brief Mar surviving to am ing mar. 129 isi and the Control a Owen Ana san, built by

In the basement of this building people were tortured to death by the hunach Mendien. sie in Greenwich Mr. Clinton also struggled to keep the akmai gardens, relling the BOC

o coera & music

23 May - 6 Ju

Side by Side by Leonard and Cole Porter with Rebesse Care Kirn Creswell Tracey Wage on ohe McGlinn

Sun 24 & Sun 31 May Die Fledermaus es production by Music The lat 23 May - Sat 6 June

Handel's Samson



Continued from Page

den in brillians purk make.

27.1 sang a welong

education by the t

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AFRICA: Past U.S. 'Sins' Notes SPRING IN LONDON

Managerially to President to the way leader make the way leaders men at the action of considering the leader to the managerial the instance of considering the managerial manage PARKS, PALACES AND GARDENS IN BLOUIVI Spring is the perfect season to discover London. Spring is the perfect season to discover London. The same of neglect and the springtime, when its room and tourists and comes alive in the springtime, when its room and tourists and comes alive in the springtime.

We have never ben a working together for a constant was should have been we should have been we should necessary and collect plant one. ondon comes alive in the springtime, when its royal parks and gardens are in bloom and tourists and city-The president and Hully be been a course by Mr. Market dwellers alike flock to riverside attractions along the Thames. With its huge array of theaters, museums, galleries, restaurants, pubs, special exhibitions and shopping venues, spring is also the time to explore the city's neighborhoods on foot, away from the crowds and bustle of traffic. Visitors can discover for themselves "the New Britain," with its emphasis on contemporary art and design, as well as taking in its historical sites.

Royal attractions

and legation by camp to the state of the sta Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey provide perfect starting points for visiting St. James's Park, Green Park, Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, with their boat rides, outdoor cafes, royal galleries and magnificent displays of spring flowers. There's a chance to feed the ducks, geese and rare birds or even enjoy a leisurely picnic on the lawn. St. James's Park adjoins the Horse Guards Parade, where the Changing of the Guard is staged each morning at 11 A.M. From May 18 to 20, there is also the Trooping of the Colour et 10 A.M. in preparation for the Oueen's birthday celebrations.

Along the Thames

The River Thames is also a great source of activities. The annual Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race, which runs from Pumey Bridge to Mortlake, is being held on March 28 at 1:15 P.M.

Riverboats ere evailable from Westminster Pier in the center of the city to Richmond and Kew. Richmond Park, west of London, offers rich wildlife in 2,000 acres of grassland. Nearby are the Royel Botanic Gardens at Kew, where exotic greenhouses and 10 different climatic zones house one of the world's greatest collections of exotic century docks. The Visitors' Center, near Crossharbour flowers, trees and shrubs. A slightly longer excursion takes the visitor farther up the Thames to Hampton Court, Henry VIII's magnificent Tudor Palace set in extensive gardens.

The riverboat also travels east to Tower Bridge and the Tower of London, which spans 900 years of British history. Once past the famous Beefcater guards, the visitor has a choice of seeing the Crown Jewels, the Royal Armories and Traitor's Gate. Tower Bridge's elevators operate up to 10 times a day, from 10 A.M. to 6:30 P.M. including weekends, and provide a magnificent panoramic view of the city. (closed on Good Friday:)

Farther east, again via riverboat, is historic Greenwich, . A CONTROCTOR UNITE which 2 million tourists visit each year. It has been chosen as the focal point for Britain's millennium celebrations. The - The gratest of Idi Amar world's last surviving tea clipper, the Cutty Sark, is a short walk from the pier, as is the National Maritime Museum, the Palladian-style Queen's House (designed by Inigo Jones in 1616 for Queen Anne of Denmark) and the Old Royal and the state of t Observatory, built by Sir Christopher Wren in 1675 on the icah by ibe k Greenwich Meridien.

All are set in Greenwich Park, London's oldest royal park, with its formal gardens, rolling hills and a small boating lake, hibition at the end of April.



Trafalgar Square — site of Nelson's Column — is surrounded by historic buildings, such as St. Martin in the Field and the National Gallery.

en clevator takes the visitor down to the Bruncl Tunnel. which crosses under the Thames to Island Gardens, where it connects with the Docklands Light Railway.

The New London

The elevated link is one of the best ways to see the "new" London of postmodern buildings -- including the 800-foot Canary Wharf office tower - bridges, marinas, tidal basins and cafe-lined quays that have replaced the 18th- and 19thstation, can arrange guided tours.

The railway is also an excellent way to return west for a a special discount price. •

as well as panoramic views across the Thames to the Isle of walking tour of the City of London, site of St. Paul's Dogs, the City of London and the West End. Back at the pier. Cathedral, parts of which are surrounded by the ancient Roman-built London Wall. It is home to narrow Dickensian alleyways and mews, Georgian houses and a range of Victorian pubs.

The huge Barbican arts complex provides a range of waterside restaurants and cafés, suitable for all the family, as well as a conservatory of exotic plants, film, theater, concerts by the London Symphony Orchestra and exhibitions of contemporary art, sculpture and design. Its special theme this year is "Inventing America," and tickets to these events, which include showings of classic Hollywood movies and Broadway musicals from April 4 to April 19, are available at

SHOPPING EMPORIUM TO THE WORLD

Whether you're looking for Stilton cheese or Italian design, London's got it.

Street Kensington and Knightsbridge are world renowned shopping sites in London. Harrods, Liberty and Fortnum & Mason are among the most famous emporia: Harrod's Food Hall is a must for those seeking the best in smoked salmon, Stilton cheese and English shortbread as well as more exotic offerings. Those interested in unusual carpets and rugs should visit Liberty's Uzbek Carpet Ex-

Most Londoners settle for Oxford Street, where department stores like Marks & Spencer, John Lewis and British Home Stores abound, often with

egent's Street, Bond Street, High hold goods, clothes, cosmeties, jewelry, an appetite overtakes you during a toys and electronic equipment.

New designer boutiques on or near Regent Street include L'Occitane. Gymboree, Karen Millen, Adolfo Dominquez and Emmanuelle Schvili, as well as Moschino's flegship store on Conduit Street.

Garrards & Co., the Crown Jewellers, Hamleys, Austin Reed, Burberry, The Scotch House, Aquascutum, Lillywhites: Waterford and Wedgewood, Crabtree & Evelyn and Dolland & Christie's and Sotheby's also hold reg-Aitchinson all have warrants to supply the Royal Household.

For antiques, there is Portobello Road and, on Wednesdays and Satreasonable prices for a range of house- urdays, Camden Passage in Islington. If Italian design on June 3.

shopping foray, head for Lola's in The Mall above the antiques arcade or choose from scores of other acclaimed restaurants farther along Upper Street in Islington, South of the Thames, near Tower Bridge, design guru Sir Terence Conran's Gastrodome boasts five excellent eateries featuring French, Italian and other international cuisines, along with London specialties and fine wines in a waterside setting. Bonhams,

arts in the spring. Christie's in South Kensington is planning its first-ever sale of postwar

ular auctions of antiques and decorative

THE TREASURES OF RUSSIA, VINTAGE CARS AND MORE

A look at London's cornucopia of museums.

cw exhibits this spring included the opening on March 19 of four newly restored rooms at the National Gallery. On the same day, the Royal Academy opened "The Art of Holy Russia," which runs until June 14 and includes superb icons. "Bonnard," featuring nearly 100 works, continues until May 17 at the Tate Gallery. "Watercolors" by Turner starts on Mey 8 at The British Museum. The museum's other major exhibition this spring is "Rimpa from the Idemitsu Collection, Tokyo," beginning May 13. More than 70 examples of the 17th-century Japanese art form will be displayed, including paintings, calligraphy and ceramics.

The Victoria and Albert Museum is celebrating the costurnes and textiles of Pakistan in "Colors of the Indu" until March 29. It will be followed from April 9 to mid-July by the "Power of the Poster," with works ranging from classic Toulouse-Lautec images to the controversial advertisements

At the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum. visitors can view a dinosaur exhibit, play "The Human Biology" game or take a voyage of discovery in "Visions of Earth." For car and design enthusiasts, the Design Museum near Tower Bridge is opening "Ferdinand Porsche," from April 9 till the end of August.

Museum buffs will be interested in the London White Card, which offers entry discounts to all the city's museums. Call 0171 734-4555 for information, •

THE SEASON'S HOTTEST SHOWS: Going Out on the Town

London's West End theaters draw visitors from around the world to shows like "Les Misérables," "Miss Saigon," "Chicago," " Starlight Express," "Cats" and "Jesus Christ Superstar." In March, the Society of London Theater is highlighting three premieres. "Timeless," by Scottish outhor David Greig, opened on Merch 17, "Sleeping Around," a collaboration between four British writers, will open in the last week of March, David Hare's "The Judas Kiss," has already caught the media's attention, not least because the role of-Oscar Wilde is played by Hollywood actor Llam Neeson. Based on the story of Wilde's betrayal by his friend and lover, Lord Alfred Douglas, it was produced by Islington's Almeida threater and Is showing at the Playhouse. Islington's Kings Head theater, which, like the Almeida, is known for "off-Broadway" shows that later move to the West End, is previewing "Liebesraum" by Israel Horovitz April 21-24.

"Spring in London" was produced in its entirety by the Advertising Department of the International Herald Tribune.



Writer: Pamela Ann Smith in Program Director: Bill Mahder. THE LONDON WHITE CARD Save as much as £50

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CELEBRATING SPRINGTIME

Festivals bring out the city's top talents.

estivals of music and art are a vital part of spring in London. This year, the Covent Garden Festival (0171 420-0171) is being held from May 23 to June 6 and consists of roore than 90 performances in 16 venues.

Highlights include an irreverent and entertaining production of Johann Strauss's operetta "Die Fledermaus" by the Music Theater London. Two performances of Handel's "Samson" are also planned, along with a "Broadway Hall of Fame" special produced in collaboration with the BBC. It will celebrate the musical genius of Leonard Betnstein and

Other events include 1930s cabaret songs, including the masterpiece "Happy End" by Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht, performed by the German singer Eva Meier, accompanied by Belgium's Muziektheater Transparant. The venues, including the Savoy Hotel, the National Gallery and the Palace Theater, are all situated near the old flower market, which now houses cafés, restaurants and shops.

The South Bank arts complex houses the Royal Festival Hall (0171 960-4242), the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the National Film Theater and the Museum of the Moving Image, as well as waterside restaurants, cafés and fairs. A festival of contemporary music will be beld there in April and May, with a series of concerts by the Philharmonia Orchestra and a performance of a new score by one of Britain's most celebrated talents, Mark Antony Tumage. •

LONDON: WHERE TO FIND IT

London Tourist Board Web site: www.LondonTown.com

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Current exhibitions: 0839 123-403

Getting around London: 0839 123-430

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Dutch Late Bloomer Wins Oscar for Foreign Film

By Alan Riding
New York Times Service

ARIS — Mike van Diem likes to dwell oo his anxieties about moviemaking to explain wby, at 39, his career as a director is only just getting un-der way. Yet in his first feature film, this slim good-natured Dutchman showed anything but insecurity. He took on the challenge of adapting a classic Dutch novel, Ferdinand Bor-dewijk's "Character," then raised the stakes by altering the plot to suit his needs. At the very least, he risked upsetting Bordewijk fans.

The gamble paid off. The movie, which recounts the power struggle between a man and his illegitimate son, each looking for the other's love but also intent on destroying the other, drew good audiences and generally enthusiastic reviews when it was released in the Netherlands last April.

proved happily prophetic.

'The critic in NRC Handelsblad took a cheap shot,' van Diem said. 'He said: ''Character' is going to win an Oscar nomination. That's almost for sure. And that's my way of saying how bad this film really is.

film really is."

Still, the director can cheerfully live with this slight after the film won the Academy Award for best foreigo-language film of 1997, beating ont movies from Brazil, Russia, Spain and Germany. "This film was getting nowhere and oow it's getting everywhere," he said after the Oscar ceremonies Mooday "It's a dream come true."

day. "It's a dream come true."

Of course, the foreign-language prize is oot exactly the moment that millions of televisioo viewers wait for in the awards ceremony. Yet it remains a mucb coveted honor, one that helps draw American andiences and gives an award-winning film special kudos in other markets. Eveo a comination helps greatly: In the past six weeks, "Character" has been acquired for distribu-

tioo in 16 countries. Still, as van Diem well knows, prizes can also lead to frustration. He came to movies by stages, as a film buff, as a film critic and, finally, at the age of 26, as a student in film school. Then, four years later, in 1989, his graduation film, "Alaska," a 45-minute thriller, seemed to set him oo the path 10 success, winning awards, including a Golden Calf,



One negative review even Mike van Diem with Sharon Stone and his Oscar.

the top Dutch movie honor, for best short film and a Student Academy Award in the United States.

In 1991, a Dutch producer, Laurens Geels, took him oo as an assistant director and "script doctor" and urged him to read "Character," a 1938 novel. with a view to a film versinn. But van Diem was not ready. Instead he wrote an original English-language screenplay called "Across the Street," which was bought by a Hollywood producer but oever made into a film, "It was all rather disappointing," van Diem said. "I found myself four years out of film school without having had a professional directing job."

E swallowed his pride and agreed to direct a 50-minute episode of a popolar Dutcb televisioo series, "Called to the Bar." It proved a good experience all around, and he went oo to direct seven more episodes, in the process meeting many Dutch writers, directors and actors and, crucially, regaining confidence in himself as a director. Early in 1995, he mentiooed "Character" again

to Geels and this time they were ready. Set in a Dickensian Rotterdam of the 1920s and 1930s, the movie begins with Katadreuffe, a newly graduated lawyer (played hy Fedja van Huet), being beld on suspicion of murdering Dreverhaven,

the much-feared court bailiff (Jan Decleir). Under interrogation, the young man then tells his story. He is the fruit of a single encounter between Dreverhaven and a housekeeper, Joba Katadreuffe, who refuses to marry the sour bailiff. Obsessed with his son but incapable of offering him love, Dreverhaven decides to prepare him for life the hard way. When Katadreuffe's first business venture fails, he finds he owes money to a bank headed by his father, who promptly takes him to bankruptcy court. Katadreuffe decides to become a lawyer and is hired as a clerk by a law firm headed by the kindly De Gankelaar (Victor Low). But he continues to be hounded by his father.

Low, who also appeared in "Antonia's Line," said van Diem showed no signs of being a rookie in the making of "Character." "First, I think he was very

courageous to take on a film of almost operatic proportions in a country where people don't applated those who step out of line." Low said in a telephone interview from Amsterdam. "But he managed to handle the big theme of two people incapable of sharing love in a hig way. He just went for it. If there were doubts, they were only those he had on his mind."

Still, van Diem had fresh cause for worry after the movie was released in

worry after the movie was released in the Netherlands. His friends, including Jean van de Velde, the director of a hit soccer comedy, "All Stars," assured him that "Character" would be the Dutch candidate for the Academy Award nomination. But when the sub-Award nomination. But when the sub-mission committee met, it chose "All Stars" by six votes to five. Then, re-markably, van de Velde withdrew his film, arguing that "Character" stood a better chance, "It was an incredible, noble, amazing act of friendship," van Diem gold.

With "Character" being released in the United States on Friday, the director must oow confront the infamous resistance of American movies to foreignlanguage movies, although the record shows that an Oscar can give a subtitled film a lift. Van Diem is counting on

Collecting his goldeo stame Monday night, he even made a joke of it. "This ought to tell you that [the film] probably has, yoo know. like, damn stunning subtitles." he said, beaming with delight.



Liam Neeson as Oscar Wilde in "The Judas Kiss," David Hare's new play at the Playhouse.

Tale of Wilde, Love and Betrayal

By Sheridan Morley International Herald Tribune

ONDON — "Let England," wrote Lord Alfred Douglas in 1937, "bear all responsibility for what she did to Oscar," and it can at least be said that we have not borne our responsibility in the one thing Wilde would most have dreaded: si-

David Hare's "The Judas Kiss" (Playhouse) is certainly the best and most intriguing oew play of the year thus far, even if it has its problems. What Hare has done brilliantly is to escape the usual plod through Wilde's life and trials from birth to the last days of illness in Paris. Instead, he has takeo just two key moments that still cause most debate

among the experts. Hare's first act thus takes place eo-tirely at the Cadogan Hotel on the afternoon of the cooclusioo of the first trial, when Wilde's frieods, and indeed even the anthorities, were eager for him to catch the boat train to Paris and thereby avoid arrest. For the second act, only two years later, Wilde is ont of prison, back with his beloved "Bosie" Douglas and living in Neapolitan peoury, while the few who still cared about them tried frantically and ultimately triumphantly to bribe them apart.

Hare has always been at his best writing about betrayal and unrequited love; "Racing Demoo" and "Murmuring Judges" and "Absence of War" were, respectively, about the betrayal of system and (all too topically still) the

By David Stevens

stance, with no less than three

Mahler symphonies, a lav-

ishly cast concert perfor-

mance of Strauss' "Elektra."

and the first French hearing of

Two of the Mahler works

1441, 120

a major new work.

ARIS - The recent

orchestral scene has

beeo extraordinarily

dense in musical sub-

oot wisely but too well, and who ended up alone because of their romantic ob-

"The Judas Kiss" nearly combines all these themes and more. Oo one level it is about a love that spoke its name rather too loudly for late Victorian sensibilities. If Wilde had an abiding sin, it was not that of homosexuality but of self-publicizing hucksterism. Yet on many of its deeper levels the play is about guilt and arrogance and revenge, and, above all, about a man who simply could oot make up his mind to catch a train or abandon forever the lover who had landed him in Read-

ing Gaol.
While Richard Eyre's productioo is characteristically steady and sobtle, he has made one decidedly odd casting de-cision, which is to have from

Hollander play Bosie as a kind of mad dwarf, a young Dudley Moore forever snapping at the ankles of Liam Neeson's great, lumbering, constantly collapsed Oscar. No echo of the gay young man with the greeo carnation, oo trace of the playwright or the poet, just a gigantic, fallen King Lear vaguely woodering how much worse it is all going to get. Neeson has oot been oo an English stage for 12 years, and on the first night his nervousness appeared to make him withdraw still further into the darkest corners that even this play affords, so that the battle for his reputatioo is all

over before it has really begun. In the line of Wildes that runs hack in the Church of England, the local judicial recent years through Stephen Fry, Simon Callow, Dooald Sinden, Tom old Labour Party. His last two plays, "Skylight" and "Amy's View," and much earlier "Plenty" and "Secret be all things to all men). Neeson is Rapture," were about people who loved certainly the most physically com-

An Orchestral Explosion in Paris

Nos. 3 and 6, were brought by the Bostoo Symphony and

Seiji Ozawa on their Euro-

pean tour, with a substantial

bonus in the form of "The

Shadows of Time," commis-

sioned by the orchestra from

Henri Duulleux, the dean of

The Strauss opera and Mahler's Second Symphony

were on the agenda for Sem-

yon Bychkov's final Paris

concerts with the Orchestre de

Paris, after nine seasons as the

music director, a period that

has seen a generational change

The Dutilleux work, first

performed last fall in Boston

and New York, makes virtu-

oso use of the orchestra's dif-

ferent choirs in its five linked

movements, beginning with a

fanfare-like outhurst in the

brass and winding down at the

end to a clockwork movement

the 25-minute work, subtitled

that recalls the beginning. The central movement of

in the orchestra's personnel.

Freoch composers.

manding. But the truth is that Alfred Donglas, who survived in Brighton until well into World War II, and therefore still has several living witnesses, was also an elegant kind of bruiser from old boxing stock. The two were thus more evenly matched physically than they can ever be here, and there are some dangerous moments where we drift into an almost Laurel and Hardy relationship.

Hare asks all the right questions, but seldom supplies an answer that is much more than a shrug of confusion and despair. In truth, a lot of clues to

the Wilde mystery lie in Rohhie Ross, the first man to seduce him, but here again Hare gives us only a very thin portrait of an

is only a very thin portrait of an infinitely complex figure, played by Peter Capaldi rather better than the script deserves. Ross was the third man in the Graham Greene sense of spy and moralist and villain, but Hare only sets him up like a ninepin to be knocked down repeatedly by Oscar and Bosie in their headlong flight, first toward and then away from flight, first toward and then away from

So yoo have to look in the far corners of the relationship for the real clues. Hare at one point suggests, justifiably on the evidence we have, that Bosie was really no more than Oscar's pimp, finding him the panthers with whom to feast but shunning any real homosexual re-lationship. This, if true, explains a great deal about Wilde's willingness to return 2015 - radio stations are the to him even after two painful years in - at atter planning to provide prisoo oo his behalf. But it is all too and craviding content fo typical of "The Judas Kiss" that the suggestion, ooce made, is allowed to knemeer. Mr. Samara, 42 drift back into the shadows of an in- and WorldSpace Inc. place finitely fascinating but seldom touching addiagnooning of AfriStar, the and ultimately inconclusive study.

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mappe of the receivers!

F. Mike Mills

BEN TON - Seven ye then healthy and very ADM TO MEDINA MARK THE

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and order 22,300 miles (35 ders) above central Africa ing talled AsiaStar and Al the to be come to hover over

Conductor Bids Farewell With Mahler and Strauss Summar estimates that 300 mills on the prediction of stage representations of stage representation "Memory of Shadows," and the absence of stage repreduct houses are a cost will state interlude that follows it sentation was hardly missed as

MARTA - The rupiah s Orest, and Klaus Koenig the sain as the International Mo

The temperature was lower to than a month, with the the temperature was round as than a month, with the hut the musicianship was on a sale as low as 8,500 rupiah it high level for Mahler's "Re- and 1,513 rupiah, its close there high level for Mahler's New York the dollar drop surrection" symphony, with the linker York the dollar drop Lipovsek the excellent vocal The livit and Indonesia seen

Bregenz, after which he moves on to posts with the Cologne Radio Orchestra and the Dresden State Opera.

nestra, Elizabeth Meyer-Top-

soe a radiant Chysothemis.

fleetingly use three children's soprano and conductor built the musical-dramatic structure carefully to its climax. Reinhild Runkel was a juicily malevolent Klytem-

Franz Grundheber the solid ill-fated Aegisth. The standing ad endorsed Indonesia's me ovation that followed the per-formance was the real thing.

Semicrost rates.

The rupiah rose to its highest k

Lipovsek the excellent vocal soloists and Arthur Oldham's or the life and Indonesia seem Orchestre de Paris chorus its customary solid presence.

By chkov will take the orchestra on tour in May to Vice chestra on tour in May to Vice change. Prague, Dresden and enna, Prague, Dre



voices, the episode being

dedicated to Anne Frank and

all their innocence."

'all the world's children, in

Mahler's giganuc sym-

phonies do not share space

easily, which may be why the

huge apparatus of the Sixth

Symptony, coming after the

Dutilleux, remained earth-

bound. Far more successful

was the Third, which was

alone oo the program of the

second concert at the Theatre

des Champs-Elysees. Flor-

ence Quivar was the superb

mezzo soprano soloist, the

Radio France choral forces

did their duóes well, and Oz-

awa stretched the passion of the final Adagio as far as it

Bychkov and a starry cast,

headed by Hildegard Behrens

in the title role, shook the Salle

Pleyel to its foundations with

would go.

Sciji Ozawa conducting the Boston Symphony.

O New York Times/Edited by Will Short:

64 Conclusion of

25 Former

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CROSSWORD

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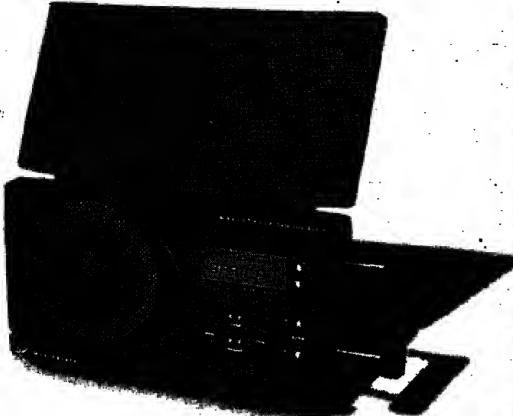
62 Marshal unde

65 Conclusion

Personal Stock **PORTFOLIOS**

Up or down? Design your personal stock portfolio and track its daily performance using the IHT site on the World Wide

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A prototype of the receivers that Noah Samara, right, plans to sell across the Third World and supply via satellite with international programming.

Wall Street to OPEC: We Don't Believe You

Stocks Surge and Oil Prices Slide on Doubts

NEW YORK - The U.S. stock market rallied strongly Tuesday as crude-oil prices slipped on doubts that oil producers would honor their pledge to cut production to lift prices.

"People are rethinking whether OPEC ministers will do what they have always done - say one thing and do another," Joseph Barthel, chief investment strategist at Fahnestock & Co., said of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. "There is disbelief that OPEC has gotten its act together."

Oil prices surged Monday as several of the world's top producers pledged to cut output by as much as 1.6 million

barrels a day to lift prices, which had fallen to 10-year lows. On Tuesday, Qatar said it also would cut its oil profuction, and Iran's oil minister said OPEC would hold an emergency meeting soon to find ways to lift prices. But some of the producers, notably

enezuela, have a history of producing above their promised amounts, leaving traders wary of the output targets.

"People realized that there's prob-

ably not a genuine cartel and that these people cheat on each other and that this won't hold," said Louis Todd, head of equities trading at J.C. Bradford & Co. Crude prices backtracked Tuesday, with oil for May delivery falling 59 cents a barrel to close at \$15.92 on the New York Meroantile Exchange. As oil prices slipped back, so did the threat of in-

flation that sent stocks down Monday.
The Dow Jones industrial average, which fell 90.18 points Monday, closed 88.19 points higher at 8,904.44, just short of a record. The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed 10.10 points higher at 1,105.65. Gaining issues outnumbered losing ones by a 3-to-2 ratio on the New

York Stock Exchange. Where stocks go now depends largely on the performance of corporate earn-

ings, analysts said.
"It's kind of back to normal," said Ted Theodore, director of research at Avatar Associates. "We've still got to get through the first-quarter earnings. That looks like it's going to be a little

See MARKETS, Page 15

Radio to the World's Masses: A Well-Funded Dream

By Mike Mills Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON - Seven years ago, several very wealthy and very private Middle Eastern investors started to put money into a company with an unusual

Noah Samara, a Washington lawyer, was proposing building a billioo-dollar company that would sell a \$200 radio offering 75 channels of digital-quality music and oews from around the globe, using three satellites.

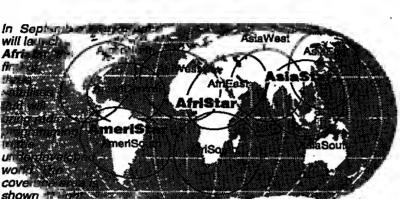
His market would be mostly developing or underdeveloped countries including India, China, much of Africa and parts of the Americas, and his revenne sources would be selling advertising, leasing channels to programmers and possibly selling premium information services by the month.

Despite the risky nature of the plan his investors have funded him with \$950 million so far. More recently, four large Japanese equipment makers agreed to nanufacture the radios by the millions.

Providers of programming, including the business-news executive Michael Bloomberg, the singer Stevie Wonder and dozens of radio stations around the world, are either planning to provide or considering providing content

In September, Mr. Samara, 42, the founder of WorldSpace Inc., plans to watch the launching of AfriStar, the first of three WorldSpace satellites, which is to go into orbit 22,300 miles (35.700 kilometers) above central Africa. The next two, called AsiaStar and Ameri-Star, are to be sent to hover over Asia and the Americas next year.

Most of the 4.6 billion people in WorldSpace's future listening area cannot even pick up a nearby radio station. Mr. Samara estimates that 300 million of them will eagerly pay the \$200 for the ndio — he predicts the cost will start to head much lower soon. But even if be is



up and its business running.

program suppliers."

the continent.

"I think that once he gets any kind of

significant penetration," said Leslie

Taylor, a Washington-based satellite in-

dustry consultant, "even as low as 20,000 to 30,000 users, he's going to

start attracting a lot more interest among

Voice of America as crucial anchor pro-

grams. Most of his initial potential customers can already get those on short-wave radio. What will excite a mass

audience, he said, is being able to hear a

radio station 200 miles away, or across

People in Cape Town would love to

hear Senegal's hip Sud FM world-music

station regularly, he said, rather than having it syndicated in South Africa only a couple of hours a day. Radio I FM, a music and information station in

Gambia, also is highly desired by mil-

lions outside its range.
WorldSpace also is creating its own

radio programming in unprecedented ways. Two pending projects include an

all-Swahili station and an Africa-wide

radio network, which Mr. Samara de-

scribed as the first attempt at a con-

and worked as a trade negotiator for the International Telecommunications Un-

Mr. Samara was a Washington lawyer

tinental communications service,

Mr. Samara does not view the BBC or

way off, Mr. Samara says, he needs only

10 million listeners to turn a profit. "My concern is not whether I can make this a business," said Mr. Samara, who grew up in Ethiopia and Tanzania. "It's how to make it a phenomenon."

Analysts do not seem particularly concerned about WorldSpace's business prospects. Yes, its audience is hardly handpicked by Madison Avenue: Wouldbe listeners speak dozens of languages, come from widely diverse cultures and typically have low buying power and little access to goods. Even so, many who have studied Mr. Samara's business plan say the sheer scale of his intended audi-

ence makes up for those shortcomings "WorldSpace," said Thomas Watts, a satellite industry analyst for Merrill Lynch & Co., 'serves a very large po-tential market for consumer products that cannot be reached by any other advertising medium."

Mr. Samara said 20 percent of his satellite capacity already was filled with programs, including Bloomberg News, which is leasing 23 channels. He said he also had met with Mr. Wonder, who owns radio stations and is interested in providing programming to an African audience. Analysts say other big names, such as British Broadcasting Corp. or Voice of America, are likely to join soon after WorldSpace gets its first satellite

ion's meetings of the World Adminis-trative Radio Conference, a sort of United Nations for the airwaves that hands out blocks of radio spectrum to nations and businesses. In April 1990, he came up with the idea to launch a satellite over Africa to provide basic radio service. He left the law firm, developed a business plan and met with venture capital contacts he had made along the way.

Now that Mr. Samara is ready to start offering his service, attention is focused on whether he will be able to sell advertising and whether WorldSpace can procure the kinds of programs that people will want to pay for.

But Mr. Samara's concerns go beyoud the bottom line. He said he hoped WorldSpace would help plant the seeds

of a pan-African consciousness. "Ten years from now," said Steven Gavenas, vice president for commercial operations, "every radio on the continent will have this capacity built into it. It really will feel like the world is in their hands."

Boeing Can't Catch Up

SEATTLE — Boeing Co. said Tuesday that it would miss its delivery goals for the first quarter and that it might have to take an additional charge against first-quarter earnings to account for continuing production

Boeing said it would deliver 110 sircraft in the first quarter, five planes short of its goal of 115 planes. Ron Woodard, president of Boeing's

commercial jet division, said the company had experienced a surge in costly out-of-sequence work on the next-gencration 737 in the past month asso-ciated with design changes required by U.S. and European regulators.

In October, Boeing disclosed that it would have to take \$2.6 billion in pretax charges against earnings by the months. Those problems contributed of 1998, the vast majority of to its first annual loss in 50 years, which was taken against second-half (Reuters, Bloombet

But the changes demanded by regulators, particularly a new exit door required by Europe's Joint Aviation Authorities, have left 28 of the twinengine jets sitting outside Boeing's factories awaiting modifications.

"The company is assessing the fi-nancial impact of these ongoing production problems," Mr. Woodard said.

Boeing, the world's largest aircraft maker, reassured investors last month that the assembly-line problems were on their way to being solved. The update shows that Boeing still does not know exactly how much it will cost to take care of the product shortages and behind-schedule work that emerged last fall when it was in the middle of doubling production in 18 months. Those problems contributed

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

Global Private Banking

RIGOROUS. DISCIPLINED. PRUDENT.

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Rupiah Surges as IMF Tensions Ease centage points Monday. The govern-ment also scrapped a proposed 5 per-cent tax oo foreign-currency purchases Jakarta agreed to in exchange for \$40 billion in aid from the IMF, would bring much-needed revenue, as the Fund has JAKARTA — The rupiah surged Tuesday as the International Monetary Fund endorsed Indonesia's move to

raise interest rates. falling as low as 8,500 rupiah in Asia from 9,250 rupiah, its close there Monday. In New York, the dollar dropped to

8,750 rupish from 10,100 Monday.

'The IMF and Indonesia seem to be getting closer and improving their re-lationship," said Jimmy Koh of Independent Economic Analysis (Holdings) Pre. The central bank raised key interest rates an average of 12.7 per-

after consultations with the IMF.

Finance Minister Fuad Bawazier The rupiah rose to its highest level in said Tuesday that Indonesia was close more than a month, with the dollar to a comprehensive package of measures to lift the country out of its worst economic crisis in three decades. He said the government was completing

the plan in talks with the IMF.
"Let us wait to conclude the talks," he said. "It's a very comprehensive package, very wide, touching on macro- and microeconomic issues A successful conclusion of the talks, which include a review of reforms that

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

withheld a \$3 billion tranche of the aid. A total of \$2.5 billion from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank

also would be released. Diplomatic and political analysts said relations between Jakarra and the Fund warmed appreciably in recent days after a period of strain. Indonesia appeared to be back on an IMF-spproved track of reform and had won some concessions from the Fund, they said, including permission to continue subsidies on essential commodities.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)



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Very briefly:

 Tele-Communications Inc., an operator of cable systems, reported a fourth-quarter loss of \$392 million, reversing a profit of \$722 million a year earlier.

Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Inc.'s investment fund agreed to buy 90 percent of Insilco Corp. for \$437 million, giving the industrial-parts maker and yearbook publisher the resources it needs to expand.

 Chiron Corp. named Sean Lance, formerly of Glaxo Wellcome PLC, as its chief executive officer, ending a 14month search by the biotechnology company.

• The Securities and Exchange Commission suspended trading in the securities of Shopping.com Inc., an Internet retailer, on grounds of possible market manipulation.

• PepsiCo Inc.'s chief executive. Roger Enrico, will donate his 1998 salary to scholarships for children of PepsiCo employees. His decision comes as chief executives face shareholder anger over their skyrocketing compensation.

• Ameritecb Corp., a local phone company, will eliminate \$3 billion in expenses through 2002 to try to sustain at least 10 percent annual earnings growth.

 Brazil posted a \$441 million trade deficit for the first 22 days of March, as exports of soybeans were delayed by rains and manufacturers imported more capital goods.

Bloomberg.AP

FelCor to Buy Bristol's Hotel Unit Bloombere News

DALLAS - FelCor Suite Hotels Inc. agreed Tuesday to buy Bristol Hotel Co.'s botels for about \$1.9 billioo in stock and assumed debt, to make it the largest owner of Holiday Inns.

Before the purchase, Bristol said it would spin off a new company that would manage its former hotels. The purchase would more than double the number of hotels owned by FelCor. Bristol shares closed at \$26,1875, down \$1,4375. FelCor shares ended at \$35.625, down 50 ceots.

AMEX

Tuesday's 4 P.M. Close

The 300 most traded stocks of the day,

Dollar Meanders As Market Awaits Report on Euro

Market News NEW YORK - The dollar was little changed against other major currencies Tnesday as investors awaited the release of key European convergence reports Wednesday and Japan's latest economic stimulus measures Thursday.

The European Commission and the European Monetary Institute will announce Wednesday which coun-tries will be included in the first round

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

of the single currency, the euro, next year. But only a surprise announcement - such as Italy being left out or Greece being in the first eurozone — would be likely to have

"I think the EMI report is going to be whitewashed," said Alfonso Alejo, a trader at Sakura Bank.

The dollar edged up to 1.8282 Dentsche marks in 4 P.M. trading from 1.8262 DM on Monday but fell to 130.275 yen from 130.475 yen. The U.S. currency was also at 1.4903 Swiss francs, up from 1.4890 francs, and at 6.1268 Frencb francs, up from 6.1213 francs.

up from 6.1213 francs. from \$1.6791.

Traders said fiscal requirements had long been overshadowed by political will in the building of a European monetary union. But if the reports affect the market's confidence in the euro's strength at its start, the dollar could benefit slightly against the mark, Mr. Alejo said.

Against the yen, the dollar was stuck between pessimism about Japan's economic outlook and the chance that Tokyo might present bold stimulus measures Thursday.

When Business Sours: 'El Niño Ate My Profits'

By James Schembari New York Times Service

NEW YORK - Three years ago it was O. J. Simpson's fault. In 1996, the Summer Olympics were blamed. Just last fall, the fingers were pointed at Diana, Princess of Wales, of all people. When companies lose money, seemingly nothing is safe from taking the blame, except, maybe, the companies themselves.

This year's scapegoat is particularly defenseless: El Niño.

Granted, the weird weather is the reason the anchovies of Peru left for cooler waters, the lobster catch is off in Cuba and gold mining has slowed in Guyana. But declining sales of sunglasses? A shrinking golf club market? No matter. Over after another has reported poorer numbers and blamed El Niño for

Saks Holdings, the parent of Saks Fifth Avenue, said in a monthly sales report that February sales were off because rain caused by El Niño ports bad sales it is because of the

Stores and Big Dog Holdings all cited El Niño for burting sales. LaCrosse Footwear said it sold fewer sboes. Toro complained of lower snow blower sales and Callaway Golf did not sell as many clubs.

Glacier Water Services did not sell as much purified water. With the sun behind the clouds so often in California, sales of sunglasses at Sunglass Hut were not up to snuff. Indeed, so many companies are

blaming El Niño that some analysts wonder if this is not just the latest 'dog ate my homework' excuse.
"There's a habit to play up

events of very low consequence, said Martin Fridson, a managing director of Merrill Lynch. The nice thing about El Niño is that it's the last month or so, one company an act of God and nobody is going to blame management for a weather pattern."

Or as Robert Streed, a money manager at Northern Trust Co., put management.'

linked to poor earnings. The Gulf people inside watching his trial in-quarter. But eventually they have to stead of going out to shop. Even account for their losses, and an act Diana's funeral was blamed for keeping people at bome.

"People were so transfixed by shopping?" Mr. Fridson said. "Can they prove that, can they measure that? I think the whole idea is to blow smoke in the investor's eyes.'

takes place on an even larger scale. Although news of the Titanic's the warmer weather means 'you nking affected the stock market in can dress lighter and tan faster.' sinking affected the stock market in 1912, no company had the gumption to blame the disaster for poor earnings. Bnt some South Korean executives are complaining that the wildly popular movie "Titanic" is siphoning money from the nation's struggling economy.

Mr. Fridson sees something at jobs in January.

kept shoppers at home. The retailers weather, whenever they report work in the company reports that he Gottschalks. Federated Department good sales, it's because of astute calls "earnings smoothing." Because Wall Street tends to reward Hurricanes have always been positive earnings, he said, companies often use their leeway under War was the villain in 1991. O. J. accounting rules to manipulate their Simpson was blamed for keeping numbers to smooth out a negative

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of God is often an easy way out. Of course, some companies have found silver linings in all the these events that they didn't go clouds. Coca-Cola Co. says it has sold more soft drinks in Peru because those same abnormal warm temperatures that have driven away the anchovies have made Peruvians thirstier. The Michigan Ski Indus-Sometimes the excuse-making tries Association, while noting the lack of snow, reminded skiers that

Peter Bernstein, an economic historian and investment adviser, is skeptical about the wbole El Niño effect. "If El Niño was something endemic in the system." he said, "you wouldn't have seen the creation of more than 300,000 new

The pound was at \$1.6750, down om \$1.6791. Traders said fiscal requirements Sun Set to Sign New Deals for Java Language

By John Markoff

New York Times Service

language is enjoying new momentum outside the personal-computer industry, and the company is planning to announce several new deals with consumer-electronics manufacturers over the next few weeks.

Sun announced Tuesday that LM Ericcson AB, the Swedish telecommunications giant, will license Java for use in cellular telephones. It is also close to a licensing agreement with Sony Corp., said an industry executive with knowledge of talks

between the two companies. Executives at Sun and Sony confirmed Monday that there bad been talks about licensing.

report strong profits despite slower sales in Asia. Investors are betting that "maybe Asia is already factored

Apple Computer rose 11/8 to 28

board will pressure its interim chief

stay on permanently or leave to

EarthShell Container rose 2 7/16

speculation the company's

This is the first year that the Java ufacturers was likely to make it language will be widely available more difficult for Microsoft Corp. to for devices other than computers. lular phone companies, Motorola Inc., Nokia Group and Ericsson.

Industry analysts said Monday that Sun's success in achieving broad licensing arrangements among consumer-electronics man-

in the language can run on most computers mespective of what operating system they use. Entire suites of programs written in Java could greatly reduce the need for Microsoft's Win-

dows operating system. In fact, Sun is also close to announcing an agreement with International Business Machines Corp. in to cooperate on developing a Java operating system for a variety of conwhich the two companies will agree

Java is widely seen as a threat to

Microsoft because programs written what water that we

sumer and embedded applications. All these developments and licensing accords show that Java is quickly making inroads in consumer devices like telephones, stereo equipment and set-top cable boxes that Microsoft bopes will run its

Windows CE operating system. Still, there is no clear winner yet. Sony, for example, is in talks with both Microsoft and Snn. A Sony spokesman said Monday that the company was interested in new software technologies to run devices like bome oetworks, digital television and interactive set-top cable-TV boxes.

more difficult for Microsoft Corp. to fragment Sun's Java business. SAN FRANCISCO - Sun Mi-Sun now has 150 Java licensees, including deals with the major celcrosystems Inc.'s Java programming

MARKETS: Stocks Rise as Wall Street Dismisses Oil Pact

bit rocky." Financial companies were among the biggest gainers, as low inflation tends to keep interest rates down. Record earnings from

but outer inflation companies surged. Merrill Lynch rose 4 1/16 to into the pricing of the stock," said Eric McKissack, a portfolio manager for Ariel Capital Management. Goldman Sachs Group, a finance industry bellwether, also bolstered

Continued from Page 1

Goldman Sachs said first-quarter pretax earnings rose 13 percent to a record \$1.02 billion as trading, bond underwriting and fees from advising on takeovers surged.

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"It means that financial stocks and the industry are healthy," said actively traded U.S. stock, rising %

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Goldman is not publicly traded,
but other financial companies

86 15/16, Lehman Brothers Holdings rose 2 1/16 to 7314, and Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette rose 2 1/16 executive, Steven Jobs, to either

Oil producers fell, with Chevron make room for a oew leader. dropping 1 7/16 to 85 7/16 and Schlumberger losing 34 to 77%.

to 23 7/16 as the developer of biodegradable fast-food packaging sold 13.2 million shares in a \$277.2 millioo initial public offering.
(Bloomberg, AP Remers) Warren Epstein, head trader at to 25 9/16 on optimism that tech-Ricbard A. Rosenblatt & Co. "It nology companies will continue to

March 24, 1998

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Facility in India

Microsoft to Open

SEATTLE - Microsoft Corp. plans to open a software development center in India, only its second outside the company's U.S. headquarters.

The center is to open this year in Hyderabad in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, company executives

"The primary reason we are doing this is the availability of a large amount of talent in India," a company spokesman said.

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A Fairy-Tale Publisher Realizes Its U.S. Dreams

Purchase Expands Bertelsmann's Reach

By Edmund L. Andrews New York Times Service

FRANKFURT — Bertelsmann AG has come a long way from selling books of Christian music and stories by the Brothers Grimm.

If it carries out the acquisition of Random House announced Monday, Bertelsmann would be the biggest commercial book publisher in the United States and in the world. But that would still account for less than half of an empire that includes music, magazines, broadcasting, digital television and online computer services.

That's not bad for a company whose first best-seller was "Theomeli," a book of Christian songs published in 1835, and whose first celebrity authors were the Brothers Grimm in the mid-19th century. Even now, with \$12 billion in sales and a global reach, the privately held company remains under the control of a descendant of Carl Bertelsmann.

The deal further heightens the power of Bertelsmann, which ranks as the world's third-largest media conglomerate, behind Disney Co. and Time Warner Iuc., with businesses in books, magazines, broadcasting, digital paytelevision and on-line services.

In the United States, it already owns the RCA, Arista and Windham Hill record labels and such magazines as Mc-Call's and Family Circle. It recently announced plans to create an on-line book-selling venture that would challenge the Internet leaders Amazon.com Inc. and Barnes & Noble Inc.

For all its reach, though, Bertelsmann remains closer to its paper-and-ink origins than most other globe-spanning media conglomerates, whether it is Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., which owns HarperCollins; Sumner Redstone's Viacom Inc., the parent of Simon & Schuster, or Time-Warner, which owns Warner Books and Little, Brown.

Bertelsmann has moved aggressively into digital television and formed a major alliance with America Online Inc., but its biggest business is still books.

"There is a twofold aspect to our strategy," its chief executive. Mark Woessner, said from the company's headquarters in Guetersloh. "First, we have to enlarge our great book business, which is by far our largest business. Our next strategic interest is to further expand our American situation."

Bertelsmann owns three of Germany's nationwide commercial television networks and stakes in scores of other broadcasting properties across Europe.
In the United States, Bertelsmann

Books owns Bantam Doubleday Dell, which it plans to operate separately from Random House until the purchase is approved by antitrust regulators. Eventually, the two American publishing units are expected to operate under a single umbrella, supervised by Peter Olson, a Bertelsmann publishing executive who is to become chief executive of Random House.

Industry executives say Bertelsmann has discussed buying HarperCollins from News Corp. But the move to acquire Random House, the largest American publisher of trade books for ordinary book buyers, has electrified the industry on both sides of the Atlantic.

No one seemed surprised that Bertelsmann had bought a second New York publisher; Mr. Woessner and others had openly discussed their interest in such an acquisition. But most competitors bad assumed it would make a deal with Mr. Murdoch, who bas shown less interest in books than in his other media interests and recently stirred concern over conflicts of interest when HarperCollins canceled a critical book on China written by Chris Patten, the last British governor of Hong Kong, Mr. Murdoch is seeking to expand his satellite-television network into China.



Mr. Middelhoff, seated, and Mr. Olson, who jointly lassoed Random House.

The man behind the surprise move is Thomas Middelhoff, the architect of Bertelsmann's expansion into multimedia services. Mr. Woessner announced last July that Mr. Middelhoff would succeed him as chairman of the Bertelsmann global empire this October.

Mr. Middelhoff is a confident strategist and a tough negotiator. When Bertelsmann was locked in a brutal brawl over digital television with the Munich-based Kirch Group, which owns German rights to a vast library of movies and television programming, Bertels-mann refused to reach an agreement until it preserved the control it wanted.

Over the past few years, Bertelsmann has appeared to vacillate about plunging into multimedia products. Though it teamed up with Kirch Groop and Canal Plus SA of France to launch Germany's first pay-television service, Premier, Bertelsmann executives often spoke disparagingly about more advanced services such as movies on demand.

Bertelsmann and Kirch finally worked out an agreement last year to roll out advanced services, in conjunc-

tion with Deutsche Telekom AG, But European competitioo regulators have sharply criticized those plans, and the

alliance's prospects remain unclear.

Meanwhile, Bertelsmann has plunged ahead in its alliance with America Online. Less than three years after the debut of America Online's Germany service, the company has more than I million customers. Bertelsmann also helped finance America Online's takeover of CompuServe Corp.'s customers, which means that the joint venture now serves an additional 800,000 users.

Through all the jockeying in elec-tronic media, both Mr. Woessner and Mr. Middelhoff have said that book publishing remains central to Bertelsmann's future. They also remained deeply interested in expanding their American presence, boping to capitalize oo the world's largest media market.

Sbortly after Mr. Middelhoff was anointed as the heir-apparent to Mr. Woessner, he began spending more time in New York. Mr. Woessner said be wanted his successor to increase his familiarity with the American publishing industry, but Mr. Middelhoff also came with a mandate to look for possible acquisitions. The deal announced Monday was negotiated primarily by Mr. Middelhoff and Mr. Olson, an American who beads Bertelsmann Book Group North America:

At the moment, the United States accounts for about one-quarter of Bertelsmann's worldwide sales, and Mr. Middelhoff has said that he would like to increase that sbare to at least 40 percent. If Bertelsmann succeeds in acquiring Random House, which is now owned by Advanced Publications Inc., the United States would account for one-third of sales.

Building Random House Begun in 1923, It Rose to Literary Heights

By Dinitia Smith New York Times Service

NEW YORK -- In 1923, Bennett Cerf and Donald Klopfer, the founders of Ran-

dom House, set up shop as the Modern Library in a tiny niath-floor office at 73 W. 45th St., with their desks facing each

other and sharing a secretary.

It was an era when "handselling" was not just a quaint term to describe the practice of a salesman personally recommending a book to a customer. "Hand-selling" for Mr. Cerf and Mr. Klopfer meant carrying books to stores them-selves, writing their own editorial and advertising copy, all out of a passionate love of books, writing and authors.

Their approach was a success, and they expanded their business, founding Random House in 1927. From that grew

the immense enterprise that is now be-ing acquired by Bertelsmann AG.

Their first book was an edition of Voltaire's "Candide." illustrated by Rockwell Kent.

As much as anything, it was Mr. Cerf's large personality that propelled Random House forward. One of his first major authors was Eugene O'Neill To get him, he bypassed Mr. O'Neill's agent, and flew to Sea Island, Georgia, where be charmed the playwright into signing with Random House. Mr. O'Neill 'was the most beautiful man I ever met." Mr. Cerf wrote in his memoir, "At Random."

Later, Mr. Cerf traveled to Paris to meet James Joyce, whom he found with his arm in a sling and his foot bandaged: he had been hit by a car. In 1934, Random House successfully defeated a govern-ment ban on publishing the full text of "Ulysses." Random House had laid the groundwork for other houses to publish works as they saw fit, and Mr. Cerf-became a spokesman for the industry.

Mr. Cerf was publisher, friend and nursemaid to his writers, once carrying a drunken William Faulkner to the bospital after the anthor had burned himself on a radiator.

The publisher worked on hunches and instinct, signing up the young Armenian-American writer. William Saroyan on a tip without meeting him or reading his work. He spotted a short story by Truman Capote in Mademois-: elle, and put Mr. Capote under contract for the book that became "Other Voices, Other Rooms."

And though Mr. Cerf was shrewd about profits, be was willing to take a chance with an author. When he publisbed Gertrade Stein's "The Geographical History of America or the Relations of Human Nature to the Human Mind," he wrote on the jacket copy: "I must admir frankly that I do not

know what Miss Stein is talking about. I

do not even understand the title." Mr. Cerf's kind of publishing would be impossible in today's world of formal editorial meetings and computerized sales records that dog authors as

they move from publisher to publisher.
"It was very casual," said Jason Epstein, the editor of Norman Mailer and E.L. Doctorow. "Everyone understood it was not a business like selling steel or shoes. It was a sport, a game for gen-tlemen who could support themselves in

other ways."
Eventually the company moved to a wing of the old Villard Mansion at Madison Avenue and 51st Street, and in 1960 Mr. Cerf bought the firm of his idol, Alfred Knopf, the publisher of Thomas Mann and T.S. Eliot.
Mr. Knopf had founded his company

As much as anything, it was Bennett Cerf's large personality that propelled Random House forward.

in 1915, believing that American tastes were maturing, and that Americans were ready to read the works of Euro-

pean authors.
Mr. Knopf, whom The New Yorker described as wearing an expression perpetually "intolerant and long-suffercould not have been more unlike the ebullient Mr. Cerf. The writer John Hershey called Mr. Knopf "the sworn energy of hogwash, bunk, gas, rubbish and a scourge of hypocrites and shod-

Mr. Knopf was said to view every book he published as a work of art. At one point, he had more Nobel Prizewinning authors than any other bouse in America, although a significant part of its revenues came from the mystic Kahlil Gibran's book, "The Prophet."

"I think that best-sellers should be abolished by law," Mr. Knopf said. "They're just another example of run-

ning with the crowd."
Publishers no longer otter such words, and today, Knopf publishes its share of mass-market authors, too, Anne Rice and Michael Crichton among them. Knopf's parent company, Random House, depends on a quaint tale of a marder and drag queen set in Savannah, Georgia, John Berendt's "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," to help keep the ship afloat.

Still, Mr. Epstein said: "The essential process of editing and publishing bas not changed and never will. There are no short cuts to it and no way of doing it

It is just that publishing is oo longer a gentleman's game.

Malaysia Cuts Growth Outlook



Anwar Ibrahim presenting the

KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysia on Tuesday lowered its estimate for ecoforecast for 1998.

Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim said the economy was likely to expand 2 percent to 3 percent this year, less than the 4 to 5 percent growth he forecast just three months ago. That would be the slowest rate of growth in more than a

Mr. Anwar also said he expected inflation to accelerate, to a rate of 7 to 8 percent in 1998 from 2.7 percent last year, as the slide of the ringgit, U.S. dollar made imports more expens-

The revised forecasts, made in a speech to Parliament, are part of an offensive to woo investors back to Malaysia's stock market.

revised forecast on Tuesday. index falling 0.53 percent, to 731.89

points. Mr. Anwar also said that the foreign ownership ceiling of 30 percent in the banking sector would stay in nomic growth and raised its inflation place, as would caps on foreigners' equity in industries such as telecommunication, insurance and stockbrok-

> Analysts voiced disappointment over the decision to leave the ceiling at 30

> 'What's the harm in raising that to 49 percent?" asked Steve Clayton, man-aging director of Caspian Research Malaysia Bhd. 'What is going to be needed in

> Malaysia is foreign capital, and that's a

Mr. Anwar said Malaysia bad already eased the ownership limits in financial services, insurance and the securities

The current-account deficit - which includes services as well as merchan-But stocks slid Tuesday in Kuala dise — is expected to be I percent of Lumpur, with the benchmark composite gross national product in 1998, he (Reuters, Bloomberg)

USX Seeks Partner to Enter Asia's Steel Market

SEOUL - USX Corp. is seeking a parmer for a joint bid to take over an insolvent South Korean steel producer, a move that would give it access to Asian parkets from which it

has been largely absent. Pobang Iron & Steel Co., which already has an American joint venture with USX, received a letter from the Pittsburgh-based steel and energy company this mouth suggesting a joint acquisition of Hanbo Steel Co.. Sohn Young Ho, a POSCO executive, said Tuesday.

"This is a cheaper way of getting into Korea and other 'Asian neighbors," said Bill Sohn, an analyst at Clarion Securities Co. "USX has little exposure to the lucrative Asian markets. Global positioning of and its auto industry, the son behind the proposal.

the won last year. Hanbo's five months ago.

A takeover also would provide a lifeline to Hanbo, which has an unfinished \$7 billion steel plant on its hands, after more than a year in the bankruptcy courts, and it would give USX access to the world's sixth-biggest steel market.

South Korea consumed for the U.S. market. more than 5 percent of the world's steel last year to feed its shipyards, which rank second in output to Japan's, world's fifth-largest.

POSCO.

foreign acquisitions of South facto government control, has Korean companies that were so far resisted government ur- firms to buy Hanbo." made cheap by the collapse of gings to take over Hanbo. The endangered company's unshares are worth about \$18 finished mill would require it ately want to see the company million on the stock market, to increase its investment just sold. "Hanbo creditors will compared with \$34 million as the slowing South Korean make very big concessions if

> for steel "We have yet to begin ne-gotiations with USX, but I don't think Hanho Steel will be a profitable business," Mr. Sohn of POSCO said.

> USX and POSCO have a joint venture in Pittsburgh that produces cold-rolled coil

> Analysts say USX may have to join forces with other Asian companies that have been looking at Sooth Korean steelmakers.

'Some Taiwanese companies, too, bave shown interest

If the deal went through, it second-biggest steel produ-would be the latest in a raft of cer and a company under de Sohn of Clarion said. "USX may team up with other Asian

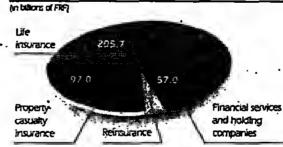
Creditors of Hanbo, who are owed \$6 billion, despereconomy depresses demand any buyer appears," the analyst said.



Net earnings: FRF 7.9 billion

Revenue: consolidated revenue rose 12.3%, to FRF-364.4 billion, On a comparable basis (constant currency, accounting method and structural basis), revenue growth reached 8.7%. Growth was particularly solid in life insurance and financial services. In property-casualty and reinsurance, revenue was stable.

Breakdown of Consolidated Revenue by Business



Total: FRF 364.6 billion

Consolidated Net Income: 1997 net income, Group share totaled FRF 7.92 billion, confirming the improved profitability of the insurance and asset management businesses communicated for the first half of the year. Net earnings per share reached FRF 24.34, an increase of 19.5%. The increase in fully diluted earnings per share, i.e. taking into account convertible bonds redeemable in stock and subscription options, duringed 24.7% versus the previous year, to FRF 22.84. This exceeds the Group's target of an average of 15% a year for the

Consolidated Net Income, Group Share by Line of Business In milions of FRFI

31/12/1997 • AXA-UAP	31/12/1996 AXA SA III
3,928	1,612
2,359	525
813	579
. 2,415	950
[1,595]	143
7,920	3,809
	AXA-UAP 3,928 2,359 813 2,415 [1,595]

Life Insurance operations contributed FRF 3,928 billion to net income, Group share, thanks to business growth and satisfactory investment results. Europe commbuted FRF 3,218 billion of the total. including FRF 1.314 billion for the UK, FRF 812 million for France, and

year Nanonal Mutual Asia contributed FRF 269 million.

616 million for Belgium. The contribution from US life insurance operations climbed to FRF 379 million, from FRF 143 million the prior

Property-casualty Insurance operations contributed FRF 2.359 billion to consolidated net income. Group share, maintaining its underwriting results and cost-control efforts under adverse market conditions. In addition, investment results were good in most countries where the Group operates. Europe contributed FRF 2.662 billion to this total, including FRF 1.211 billion for France and FRF 650 million and FRF 516 million for Belgium and Germany respectively. Some activities made a negative contribution to consolidated net income, notably direct insurance, due to high development costs, and Asian businesses, where equity portfolio values were reduced to reflect the general decline in the

region's markets

The increased contribution from reinsurance operations was significant, reaching FRF 813 million, buoyed by satisfactory investment results and the absence of any major claims

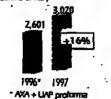
The financial services contribution to consolidated net income,

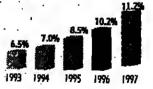
Group share totaled FRF 2.415 billion. The American financial services contribution increased by 90%, to FRF 1.742 billion, in an extremely

The financial services contribution from other countries was FRF 673 million, including FRF 187 million from asset management, FRF 145 million from real estate and FRF 341 million from other

The Group attained 11.2% return on equity in 1997, reaching the objective it had set for 1998 one year ahead of schedule. This puts it well on track for its medium-term target of 15%.

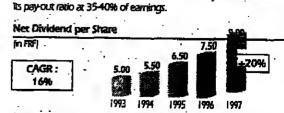
before net income appropriation





Return on Average Equity

Dividend: At the Ordinary and Extraordinary Meeting scheduled for 6 May 1998 at the Palais des Congrès in Paris, the dividend amount and pay-out date will be submitted to shareholders for approval. A dividend of FRF 9 will be proposed, versus FRF 7.50 for 1996, an increase of 20%. The coupon detachment date is 11 May 1998. Including the tax credit, the total dividend amount is FRF 13.50. AXA's objective is to maintain



For additional information: the full press release and a detailed presentation of results are available on the internet (http://www.axa.com); or by contacting the Investor and Analyst Relations Department (Pascal Thébé, Pierre Granler) at 33.1.40.75.48.42 or the AXA inclividual Shareholders Department (François Pavee) at 33.1.40:75.46.05.



Daihatsu Pulls Out of Thailand. **Ending Production and Sales**

Bloomberg News

TOKYO - Daihatsu Motor Co. has stopped production in Thailand, the company said Tuesday, and will close its sales butlets there at the end of the month, becoming the first Japanese automaker to pull out of the economically troubled Southeast Asian country.

Daihatsu, the second-largest Japanese producer of minicars - vehicles with engine sizes of 660 cubic centimeters or less will shot down the sales affiliate Daihatsu-Phranakorn Motor Co. at the end of this month, Ken Koike, a company spokesman, said. It ended a production deal with Bangkokbased Bangchan General Assembly Co. last month. "We'll look at how things go," Mr. Koike said, before deciding whether to resume production and sales in Thailand.

Daihatsu said it would set up a subsidiary next month with 20 employees to provide after-sales service and auto parts. The Toyota Motor Corp. affiliate, which makes the Mira 850cc pickup truck in Thailand, sold just 160 vehicles in the country in 1997, compared with a peak of 4,000 in 1995, Mr. Koike said. The baht began plunging last July and has lost almost a third of its value against the yen over the past year. raising prices for imported cars and those produced mostly with imported parts.

The weak baht also burts earnings of Japanese companies in Thailand when they repatriate their profits and convert them to

But Mr. Koike said the Thai pullout would not have a eignificant impact on Daihatsu's earnings.

How will liberalization of telecoms trade affect the callback segment of the industry?

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

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High Low Stock

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NYSE

Tuesday's 4 P.M. Close The 2,600 most traded stocks of the day. ide prices not reflecting late trades elsewi

The Associated Press

STUMBLING IN HER **DELICATE SATIN SLIPPERS** AND ALMOST TRIPPING ON THE hem of her diaphannus gnwn, the young hride fought hack tears of

irritation. Much as she abhorred the idea of a row with her new busband on only their second day of wedded bliss, she could not imagine why be was insisting she made her way to the moonlit Raffles' poolside in full evening regalia. 'Are you sure the restaurant's this way, darling?' she ventured through gritted teeth, all too aware of her hushand's famously pnnr sense of direction. Only I'm ant really dressed for one of your short cuts.' It was then that the tears began to flow in earnest. For there at the punlside, bathed in a suft candlelit glow, was an exquisite table à deux romantic setting. Silverware perfectly framed by its leafy

and Beverage Manager, whose collaboration in this surprise had been

PERSONAL PROPERSONAL PROPERSON

Continued on Page 23

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EU Raises the Heat On Credit Lyonnais

BRUSSELS — The European Paris has been rising as France resists Union's top antitrust official Mr. Van Miert's calls for a quick sale threatened Tuesday to apply "much of Credit Lyonnais to private in-stricter conditions" to the French vestors as well as the sale of most of bailout of state-owned Credit Ly- its European assets outside France. onnais SA, demanding that France

take action by next week. The EU's competition commis-sioner, Karel Van Miert, said an ac-cord on a new plan had been delayed sale, as the bank's recovery adds to by disagreements over which assets its value. the bank needed to sell and the French government's refusal to ac- chairman and chief executive, said celerate the sale of the bank to private investors. The plan follows one approved by the EU in 1995 that had to be revised as the French state con-

timed to pour money into the bank. "We've been trying to sort things out, but until now without success." Mr. Van Miert said. "The progress isn't satisfactory."

The battle between Mr. Van Miert and the French authorities involves the biggest bailout EU antitrust authorities have had to contend with. Saving Credit Lyonnais, which aimed to become Europe's largest bank, is expected to cost the French state as much as 190 billion francs yet, and were therefore "illegal." (\$31 billion), according to figures

The bank could find itself in an awkward position if the EU does not approve the new 3 billion franc aid 45 billion francs in 1995, to represent roughly 10,000 francs per

Tension between Brussels and

France is dragging its feet, analysts said, because the longer it waits

Jean Peyrelevade, the bank's over the weekend that the bank was probably worth 40 billion francs today and could be worth even more

Last Thursday, Credit Lyonnais posted a profit of 1.2 billion francs for 1997, five times the amount it earned in 1996, when it posted a profit of 202 million francs.

After the bank's announcement of its results, bowever, Mr. Van Miert took the unusual step of questioning publicly their validity. In a surprise statement, he said the results assumed state aid of 3 billion francs that the EU had not cleared

by the time the bank's shareholders bold their annual meeting in June, to European activities in combat approve the bank's 1997 results. aircraft," Mr. Richard said.

Europe Is Urged To Form Alliances In Aerospace

PARIS - The big European aerospace companies should forge specialized alliances as a way of competing globally; the French defense minister said in an interview published Tues-

Alain Richard, speaking in an interview with a financial daily. Les Echos, also said French companies should pool their military businesses along sector lines.

France's state-owned Aerospatiale, British Aerospace PLC and Daimler-Benz Aerospace AG of Germany are due to present a blueprint for reshaping military and commercial acrospace by the end of the month to confront competition from the U.S. titans Boeing Co. and Lockheed Martin Corp. Mr. Richard urged that

and British Aerospace work to-gether on combat aircraft. The two compete with the Mirage 2000 and the Tornado and have the new Rafale and Eurofighter jets vying for export sales. "Some points are essential, particularly that the future European entity combine all the

Dassault Aviation of France

French Output Figures Point to Faster Growth

By Susannah Patton Special to the Herald Tribune

PARIS - France's economy, reit would not lose steam soon.

January and housing starts rose at consumption." their fastest pace in three years, reexpand more this year than last.

unemployment, rising consumer two years of sluggish performance. positive trend. The French government is counting on growth of 3 percent this year, up from 2.4 percent in 1997.

from the comparable period a year earlier, the national statistics office Insee said. Meanwhile, the Housing Ministry reported that new-home construction rose 2.7 percent in Febmary and 5.4 percent in the three months to the end of February.

flected an increase in domestic de- sumer spending are very good."

mand, which has joined with ex-ports to drive growth in France. The key to the strong growth

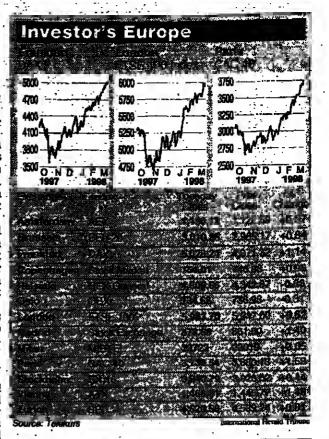
scenario is that domestic demand is covering after a period of slow picking up," said David Nande, an growth, showed signs Tuesday that economist at J.P. Morgan in Paris. "The labor market is improving in French industrial output surged in France, and that is helping to boost

France's unemployment rate fell ports showed, and economists said to 12.1 percent in January from a the fresh economic data provided postwar high of 12.6 percent last more evidence the economy would June. That helped raise consumer spending by an annual 5.5 percent in The figures, on the heels of recent January, compared with 0.2 percent economic data showing a drop in for all of 1997.

The manufacturing output figures spending and growing confidence showed a slight 1.1 percent drop among French households, are the from December. Economists charlatest sign that France's economy is acterized the dip as a "pause," set to grow strongly this year after however, rather than a reversal of a

·Still, some economists warned that the Asian financial crisis and goods as cars, appliances and the growth. "Those two factors cloud parts to make them rose 8.8 percent the picture for forecastion." France's plans to legislate a 35-hour Patrick Mange, an economist at Deutsche Bank who is expecting 1998 growth of 2.7 percent.

Eric Chaney, economist at Morgan Stanley, added: "Growth is due to slow down a bit in France and other European countries as the effects of the Asian crisis are felt. But I'm not Economists said the figures re- worried, because prospects for con-



Very briefly:

· Western Germany's annual inflation rate hit a 10-year low of l percent this month amid falling prices for energy, vacations and telephone calls. Consumer prices fell 0.2 percent this month, strengthening expectations that interest rates will not rise.

 Germany will appoint the Bundesbank's chief economist, Otmar Issing, to the six-member executive board of the future European Central Bank, where he will join members from Finland, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and France in overseeing the Jan. 1 start of the common currency, the euro.

 AO Yuksi Oil Co. plans a strategic alliance with Schlumberger Ltd. of New York, an oil-field services company; the Russian oil company concluded a partnership deal Monday with Elf Aquitaine SA of France.

• Russia went ahead with its delayed issue of Deutsche mark-denominated Eurobonds and raised the amount to 1.25 billion Deutsche marks (\$684.5 million) from 1 billion amid strong demand for the paper.

Thesday and said further increases than in the like period in 1997.

Volkswagen agreed with its • SEAT SA, Volkswagen AG's Spanish carmaking unit, said in sales and profit were possible in But Mr. Paefgen said profit 95,000 German workers on terms of its profit more than doubled in 1997, helped by sales of its growth might not match the sales an early-retirement plan aimed at SEAT brand cars, particularly its Ibiza model. SEAT earned growth because Andi was running reducing labor costs, Bloomberg 11.1 billion pesetas (\$71.6 million) in 1997, up from 5.3 billion News reported from Wolfsburg, pesetas in 1996, when it ended a five-year string of losses.

> Savoy Hotel PLC's net income last year was £17.7 million (\$29.7 million), reversing a net loss a year earlier of £26.8 million, amid strong demand for rooms at its four London

> Fresenius AG, a provider of dialysis products and services. said fourth-quarter profit rose 20 percent, to 55 million DM, as it bought health centers in Europe and increased its sales in Latin America and Asia.

> • The Swiss National Bank is accepting as much as 2 billion Swiss francs (\$1.3 billion) in bids for two sets of government bonds; it also announced the anction of Switzerland's firstever 30-year bond.

Audi's chairman, Franz-Josef Paefgen, outlining the auto-maker's glowing 1997 profit report and 1998 forecast Tuesday. above the previous year's level."

Audi Sees Improvement on Record Profit

(\$200.5 million).

Chairman Franz-Josef Paefgen said the luxury car division of Volkswagen AG had raced through two 'magic' boundaries in 1997, with sales exceeding 20 billion DM and deliveries of more than 500,000 are already sold out for 1998. The automaker said it was were up 19 percent, and the com-pany delivered 546,436 vehicles, an

In 1998," he said, "we expect

FRANKFURT — Andi AG reorted its best-ever annual results months of this year 29 percent more

Compiletin Our Staff from Dispuries

Andi said group sales would reach isted yet. (Reuters, AP, Bloomberg)

EXAMPLE 1. September 1. September 1. September 2. September 2 ported its best-ever annual results months of this year, 29 percent more

out of production capacity.

Audi faces production bottlenecks at its main plants in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm in southern Germany as it struggles to cope with demand for half of their remaining years until its top-end A6 and A8 models, which retirement and receive an average of

The automaker said it was considering ways to increase capacity, including expanding existing plants.

A Brazilian plant is to open in early 1999, and the company said it might council, said VW, which saw profit build a plant in or outside Germany double last year to 1.36 billion DM,

Germany. Employees between the ages of 55 and 60 will be able to work at least

85 percent of their monthly salary during the entire period. VW will pay full pension insurance contributions for the years to retirement. Klaus Volkert, head of the workers

but added that no concrete plans ex- should pay workers a special bomis.

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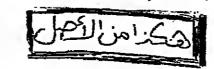
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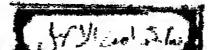
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World Bank Accepts a Share of Blame for Asia Crisis

By Philip Segal ternational Herald Tribuna

HONG KONG - The World Bank blamed local governments, foreign investors and international foreign investors and international World Bank said. "Yet few appre-institutions such as itself Tuesday ciated the depth of the structural institutions such as itself Tuesday ciated the depth of the structural for either causing or failing to anticipate Asia's financial crisis, and it warned that investments in and international crisis and international crisis. loans to the world's emerging econ-

omies were likely to drop this year.
"Countries that rely on these flows for new financing will likely titled Global Develop-face considerable difficulties in the ment Finance 1998 near term," the World Bank said, predicting economic growth of 3.5 percent in Malaysia and 3 percent in the bank predicted a

sia, Thailand and South Korea. The bank, in a report on Asia's being adopted by bankers and in-crisis, chastised governments in ternational agencies, that accents emerging economies for having in-adequately regulated financial sys-tems. It also took foreign bankers and investors to task for pouring money into emerging markets that

itself, saying international institutions had not been on the lookout for the right signals and had been taken by surprise when the crisis hit last

"There seems to have been suf- it said, "were not restrained by in- countries might bein stabilize these equately assess the region's

In its annual report formerly known as the World Debt Tables -

economic vulnerabilities.

the Philippines this year but no slowdown in foreign money flows year over 1996, rising for the sevwho likened the ability of busigrowth or a contraction in Indoneto the developing world this year. It enth year in a row, to \$256 billion.

nesses to raise money across borders highlighted a new emphasis, already the quality — not the quantity — of investment in emerging markets.
It said that in this decade in emerg-

ing economies, "distorted incentives, lax regulatory standards, poorly managed financial liberalization and often provided poor returns.

The bank also had stern words for inadequate disclosure and supervision have encouraged excessive risk-taking," and it placed much of the blame for the crisis on imprudent action by more developed countries. "Foreign lenders and investors,"

ficient publicly available data in adequate financial statements, high Thailand to allow observers to fore- short-term debt or the unhedged forsee problems at least a year before eign-exchange exposure present in the financier George Soros, Joseph the devaluation of the baht," the the financing structure of East Asian Stiglitz, the World Bank's chief banks and firms.'

warned that investments in and tional institutions failed to ad- financial crisis, net inflows of to developing nations whose finanprivate long-term money still reg- cial systems cannot always product-

The bank also chastised governments in

for a difficult 1998, the bank said.

over how to prevent another Asian

crisis, with international officials

and economists increasingly dis-

The report emerges amid a debate

economies. The debate has drawn calls from economist, and others for more in-

tervention in international capital markets. The idea is to help slow the flow of money from rich countries istered an increase of 3.6 percent last ively handle such masses of funds.

Those arguing this case have been staunchly opposed by the U.S. deputy Treasthe region, foreign bankers and investors.

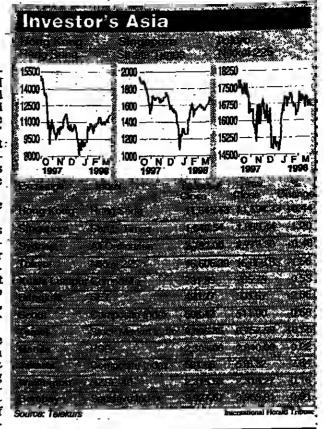
> The small increase for the year to the rise of jet travel. "Governmasked a surge of money in the first ments," he wrote recently, "can half and an almost equally heavy respond to the invention of the jet retreat after the onset of the Asian aircraft by lengthening the runway financial crisis in July. That war-iness to commit large amounts of or by banning jet landings. It is obvious which is better." new money — especially into the stock markets of Asia — will make

The most frequently cited example of a country that has found a balance between deregulation and sensible controls is Chile, which taxes foreign-currency loans at a rate of 30 percent in their first year rate of 30 percent in their first year to fight that process — thereby and requires stock investors to leave denying yourself the necessary captheir money in the country for a ital for growth — but to ride the cussing the idea that controls on short-term loans to developing minimum of 12 months.

Stanley Fischer, the deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland last month that "the Chilean scheme is one that needs to be considered." The goal of Chile's system is that with capital costing more for shortterm projects, borrowers and lenders will be more careful about where they direct the foreign funds.

The idea of controls on the Chilean model "is still an issue un der active debate," said Morris Goldstein, senior fellow in international finance at the Institute for International Economics in Washington. But it is not a care-all, and it works only if countries clean up lending practices that, for example, allow the use of real estate as collateral for short-term loans.

In a book to be published on the Asian crisis, Callum Henderson, a managing analyst at Standard & Poor's MMS International in Hong Kong, writes: "The process of globalization has already to a great extent taken financial control out of the hands of Asian political and financial authorities. The trick is not



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WTO Sees Slower Trade Growth

GENEVA - A slowdown in Asian and U.S. economic growth could lead to a drop of two to three percentage points in the growth rate of world trade this year, the World Trade Organization said Tuesday, and it said fears of a flood of exports from Asia were exaggerated.

Exports of goods globally rose 9.5 percent in volume

terms last year, the trade body said in a report. The organization said trade growth was likely to slow in some Asian countries, such as South Korea and Indonesia, whose currencies have lost as much as two-thirds of their value against the dollar in the past six months, making imports more expensive.

"Trade prospects for 1998 remain clouded by uncertainty over the impact of the Asian financial crisis," the group said

without making a specific forecast for this year. Still, lower imports into the five countries most affected -Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Korea and Thailand — are unlikely to be a major brake on 1998 world trade growth, the WTO said, as these countries account for no more than 7 percent of global commerce.

Exports from the five countries will grow this year this year, the WTO said, but not as rapidly as might have been expected given the massive declines of their currencies. The countries account for a combined 3.6 percent of global gross domestic product, the organization said. (AFX, Bloomberg)

Prognosis for Japan's Economy: **Possibly Heading for Recession**

TOKYO - Japan's already both to snap the economy out weak economy is worsening, two top economic officials

Matsunaga said the economy was "in a severe state."

Koji Omi, director-general of the Economic Planning Agency, then said the ecouomy remained "stagnant" and its problem was "becom-

ing more severe."
The government conceded late last year that economic growth was at a standstill, but many private economists and business leaders have expressed concern that the economy may start to shrink.

The problems have put mounting pressure on the government to come up with

Hitachi Sets Chip Venture in Russia

Agence France-Presse TOKYO — Japan's Hitachi Ltd. said Tuesday it would form a joint venture with Russian partners in April to produce semiconductors in St.

Petersburg.
Hitachi-Svetlana Power Electronics, capitalized at 2.2 million yen (\$17,000), will become the first semiconductor production facility in Russia run by a Japanese elec-

tronics manufacturer, com-

of the doldrums. The minister of internationsaid Tuesday in the latest grim al trade and industry, Mitsuo

tax cuts, public spending, or

government statements indi-cating the country could be headed toward a recession. Horiuchi, urged the govern-ment to consider deep cuts in corporate and income taxes, Finance Minister Hikaru reflecting the business community's concern over the economy. His call for bold tax relief for companies and individuals came one day after senior ruling party politicians decided not to include largescale tax cuts in an economic stimulus package set for release Thursday.

The governing Liberal Democratic Party has said the package will center on public works spending and will not include an income tax cut.

But senior LDP officials left open the possibility of a cut in personal income taxes. (AP, Bloomberg)

trolled 51 percent by Hitachi and 49 percent by a group of Russian partners, led by AOOT Svetlana of St. Peters-

Hitachi-Svetlana expec annual production of 100.000 units of insulated gate bipolar transistors - a power semi-

Production is to start by the end of December.

Very briefly:

 Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd., Hong Kong's major airline, plans to lay off an additional 130 employees as business continues to sag amid Asia's economic downturn. The move will bring to 870 the number of workers the airline has laid off since the beginning of the year.

 Hong Kong auctioned off two plots of land, including a property on exclusive Victoria Peak, for 1.21 billion dollars (\$156.2 million), topping some forecasts and bolstering confidence in the city's slumping property market.

 Japan's domestic demand for cars, trucks and buses fell 21.2 percent in February, to 524,662 vehicles, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association said. But including vehicles produced for export, the number of vehicles built in Japan in February was nearly unchanged at 933,192, the group said.

· Oriental Land Co., the owner and operator of Tokyo Disneyland, plans to sell bonds to help finance a 400 billion yen (\$3.07 billion) expansion project.

• Japanese department-store and supermarket sales fell 6.6 percent in February from a year earlier, to 612.4 billion yen, the Japan Department Stores Association said. The decline was the 11th consecutive monthly drop.

 Japan's Finance Ministry granted Allstate Insurance Co. permission to sell auto and other types of nonlife insurance policies in Japan.

• ABB Asea Brown Boveri Ltd., a Swiss-Swedish con-glomerate, formed a venture making power transformers with several Chinese companies including Chongqing Transformer Works.

Singapore Land Ltd. posted a 3 percent gain in profit last year, to 88.9 million Singapore dollars (\$55.7 million), lifted by higher rentals.
AP. Bloombere

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I wander who is?"

who am 17"

Two elephants are sitting on a log. The little elephant is the big elephant's son, but the big elephant is not the little elephant's father. How is this possible?



PARIBAS A FORCE IN GLOBAL CORPORATE BANKING

Total Assets US \$290 billion

Net worth US \$12 billion

70% of revenues generated outside France

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SIZE IS MISLEADING

The question above demonstrates how language and prejudice can make us leap to conclusions. Corporate banking is particularly rife with misconceptions.

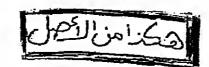
Few realize, for example, that Paribas with total assets of over US \$290 billion is one of the top three banks in commodities and trade finance and a major player in media where it ranks No 2 in Europe. More than the two thirds of our business activity is concentrated in high added-value structured

financing and in growth sectors such as Projects, Export, Aerospace and Healthcare. Yet to some people who view banking from a distance, a more familiar name somehow just sounds.

bigger. And often for no reason at all. Which brings us back to that log and those elephants and the moral of this story which is "never assume".

We assume that because we say "big elephant" it must be male. In fact, the big elephant is the little elephant's mother. http://www.paribas.com

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China :

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I recently traveled to Kunming, in the heart of southern China, to join a unique international expedition called the Thailand-Laos-China Friendship Caravan. The caravan

illustrates why Thailand is

the natural gateway to

the Mekong Region. Over six days, the other expedition members and I navigated our way over 1,300 kilometers (800 miles) of highways and four-wheel drive tracks in the upper reaches of the Mekong River Basin, passing through some of Asia's most spectacular country: terrain as widely varied as tropical rain forest and chilly highlands. Organized by the Tourism Authority of Thailand

nomic zone served by a region-wide

ransportation network and attractive

to travelers in

an open window in the distance. We end the day in a tea garden in the heart of the city. Elderly residents play manjoog in the dying light. It's a peaceful place, a world away from the traffic outside the garden gate.

DAY TWO: The Friendship Cara van kicks off at dawn as our convoy of 25 vehicles hits the streets of (TAT) in cooperation with the PATA Thailand Chapter, Thai Airways In-Kumming behind a police escort. We detour to Stone Forest, 120 kilo-meters southeast of Kumming, a massive collection of gray limestone ternational and the Petroleum Anthority of Thailand, the project is just one step in the Thai government's effort to pioneer an Indochina ecopillars. Then our journey begins in earnest, a straight run toward Laos.

Southern China is traversed by water. Magnificent rivers snake through the countryside, brooks tumble through hilltop

> run through field after field of sugar cane. We catch glimpses of smalltribes; a village shop, an old man and his grandson, an immense pig roasting over an open fire while a man bastes if

drive at a brisk pace. Sounding horns and

The view through the windows of with sauce. our Jeep Cherokee shows a rural society succeeding handsomely in Between villages, we the task of keeping itself fed. Yet apart from diesel utility vehicles used to transport everything from people to hay to rubbish, there's no modern farm equipment in

After today's drive (349 kilometers) it's easy to be optimistic about China's future. The government is huilding a wide transnational road through this region to expedite access to Laos and Thailand, and the existing roads are surprisingly good.

Shortly after 5 P.M. we

cross the Mekong River (called the Lancang River in China), a wonderful moment for us all.

DAY FOUR: We wake up in Jinghong -known as the City of Dawn — the capital of Xishuangbanna Prefecture. It's the first day of the Chinese New Year and the streets resonate with firecrackers. In a nearby market,

holiday shoppers seem unperturbed by the noise. Jinghong is a lively, bustling town that appears to be undergoing a renaissance. Five international hotels are already open, with at least that many under construction.

The prefecture is home to many tribes, but the Dai people dominate. Dai women wear colorful handwoven sarongs and often wrap their hair in beautiful headdresses. The Dai language is similar to the north-em Thai dialects. Dai villages feature wooden houses raised on stilts with ducks, pigs and chickens frol-icking below. In one village, about five hours from Jinghong, an elderly woman with a mut-brown face and bright pink sarong and headdress

greets us. She invites us to her bouse for lunch, but regrettably our schedule prohibits us from accepting her kind invitation.

DAY FIVE: Border crossings are often fascinating, and the China-Laos checkpoint is no exception. The Chinese side consists of a motley collection of official huildings and an old gate. We stop to take photos with the Chinese guards, who oblige us with a smile. We say good-bye to our Chinese police escorts, who have dooe an admirable job of guiding 25 foreign vehicles over 1,000 kilometers of diverse road without incident.

In the late afternoon, we arrive at the Laos-Thailand frontier, a sleepy

border (above), we began the last leg of our journey which took us: through part of Laos to Chiang Rai in northern

We cross the half kilometer of "no-man's land" between China and Laos. All around us, land is under cultivation. Immigration takes just long enough for us to wander through the duty-free store. We arrive at Lu-ang Nam Tha and check into the basic but cheerful Udomsilpa Hotel. In the nearby market, women are selling beautiful silk and cotton weavings. Each piece takes two months to pro-

duce yet costs only \$10. DAY SIX: Our TAT guides tell us that today will be the hardest leg of the journey and they prove to be right. We rise at 4 A.M. and head off countryside in the darkness on a mountain road that soon deteriorates into an unpayed track. Later it worsens even further into a runted, boggy path.

winding roads of China's Tuncan province (above), covered 1,300 kilometers of highways and fourwheel drive tracks through some of Asia"s most spectacular

NYSE

search of adventure. As a link in the Amazing Thailand cam-paign, it highlights Thailand's south, mountain

after mountain was covered in superb rice (above). In Thailand and China, we kept in touch with the outside world via the national GSM

phone (right).

role as the natural hub of the Greater Mekong Subregion (China's Yunnan Province, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam. Cambodia and Thailand). This is the story of that journey.

DAY ONE: At an elevation of 1.890 meters (6,200 feet), Kunming's climate is bracing in the winter months. This city of 3.5 million is full of contrast and color. Its wide, tree-lined streets teem with cyclists pushing down the networks. In boulevards like great schools of fish. Laos, we relied Big department stores with large windows are well stocked with modon a satellite em goods. Across town, in the Flower and Bird Market, cobblestone lanes meander through rows of shops

selling birds, seed, flowers and frogs. flashing lights, we careen at breakneck speed around tortuous, exhilarating bends. The convoy stops for coffee on a narrow road and we gasp at the views: hydroelectric stations set against a mountain backdrop, rice terraces climbing the steep hluffs, seeming to defy gravity_

Tonight we stay in Mojiang, a town that features one hotel, one gas station and one main street. It has taken us 12 hours to travel 328

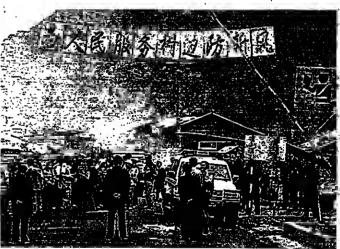
DAY THREE: As we continue south, mountain after mountain (I lost count at 123) is covered in superb rice terraces. Vegetable patches, tea gardens and tree plantations abound. Even luscious strawberries are being expertly grown in

this highland climate.



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TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND 202 Le Concord Building - Ratchadaphisek Road - Huay-Kwang - Bangkok 10320 Tel. (662) 694 1222 (has 80 phone lines) - Fax (662) 694 1220, 694 1221 e-mail: tat@cs.ait.ac.th - Web site; http://www.tat.or.th



We slip and slide

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after hour, we edge our

way along. We pass over

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and views of the river be-

low. As the sun comes up,

we see villages ahead.

Hordes of children and their

parents line the road to cheer

and grin as we drive

through. Their goodwill is

By early afternoon, the road remains rough. Mud gives way to blinding dust so fine it's like talcum powder. Visibility is reduced to zero at times.

place called Huay Xai.

We catch the car ferry across the Mekong and head for Chiang Rai, known as the Gateway to the Golden Triangle. Thus ends a rewarding and memorable journey.

At the China-Laos

In the villages along the caravan route, glimpses of peaceful small-town

On the way hack from the Dragon - grottos cleaved from the cliff by a Taoist monk and his coworkers 200 years ago - we stop at Huatiog Temple. Ancient buildings gracefully surround a stone pond. Incense drifts upward through the magnolia, crabapple, green plum and willow trees. The main temple is an extraordinary panoply of statues of thousands of figures from Buddhist mythology. Somewhere a prayer bell sounds and Chinese opera music wafts from

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Bill Mahden

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Gascoigne Will Go To Middlesbrough

SOCCER Paul Gascoigne, the England midfield player, agreed Tuesday to join Middlesbrough of the English first division.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said Gascoigne had agreed a three-and-a-half-year contract. Gascoigne must still pass a medical examination.

Gascoigne, 30, had been with Glasgow Rangers for the past twoand-a-half years but he played just one full match in the last three months and has lost his place in the England team in warm-up matches for the World Cup.

Gascoigne and Robson played together in the England midfield in the early 1990s.

Day of Deals in NHL

ICE HOCKEY National Hockey League teams made a string of deals Tuesday, the last day before the league's trading deadline.

• The Detroit Red Wings ac-

quired defenseman Dmitri Mironov from the Anaheim Mighty Ducks in exchange for Jamie Pushor and the Wings' fourth-round pick in the 1998 entry draft. Mironov, 32, had been Ana-heim's third-leading scorer with six goals and 30 assists in 66 games. In 54 games this season, Pushor has

two goals and five assists. The Buffalo Sabres traded forward Jason Dawe to the New York Islanders in exchange for forward Paul Kruse and defenseman Jason

Holland. Dawe, 24, had 19 goals and 17 assists in 68 games to rank third in scoring for the Sabres this season.

The Vancouver Canucks sent Dave Babych, a 36-year-old defenseman, and a sixth-round draft choice to the Philadelphia Flyers for a third-round pick in this year's

• The Toronto Maple Leafs traded Jeff Brown to the Washington Capitals for Sylvain Cote in a swap of veteran defense-

Popplewell Retires

BUGBY UNION Nick Popplewell, 32, the British Lion and former Ireland captain, said Tuesday be will quit international rugby union at the end of this season. Popplewell, a prop forward, has played 49 times for Ireland. (Rewers)

Quick Start for Pakistan

CRICKET Pakistan, which needs just 192 runs to win the second test against Zimbabwe in Harare, scored 58 runs in just 14 overs before the close of play Tuesday. Saced Anwar smashed an un-

beaten 38 as Pakistan set off at a gallop, losing just one wicket. Earlier, Zimbabwe was bowled ont for 268 in its second innings.

 Nasser Hussain completed his first century against West Indies on Tuesday to lead England toward safety in the sixth test in Antigua. After heavy showers delayed the

start of the final day's play until after lunch, Hussain and Graham Thorpe batted through the afternoon session to take England to 275 for three at tea. Hussain was on 102

Holyfield to Face Briton

BOXING Evander Holyfield will defend his WBA heavyweight title against Henry Akinwande on June 6 at Madison Square Garden in New York.

It's pretty much done, there are just a few little details to work out," said Marina Capuro of Showtime, which will handle the pay-per-view distribution of the fight.

Akinwande, a 6-foot-7 English-

man, is the mandatory challenger. In his last fight, he was disqualified for holding against Lennox Lewis, the WBC champion.

A Sad Episode for Newcastle

ONDON - As every self-respecting soccer player knows, when you play away in Europe it is best to keep your defenses up. Freddie Shepherd and Douglas Hall forget this

rule, and it has proved costly. The two men were the chairman and vice chairman of Newcastle United. The English Premier League clob announced. a sharp rise in half-year profits Tuesday: £11.6 million, up from £6.4 million. But Shepherd and Hall, who between them own 60 percent of the shares, had resigned early Tuesday. They dare not show their faces around the stadium, the

city or anywhere else in Britain. They had been caught with their de-fenses down in a Spanish brothel 10 days earlier, trapped by a journalist pretending to represent a businessman who planned to model a foreign club on their methods. He filmed and recorded them in the brothel and a strip joint in Marbella, and exposed them in the News of the World, a British tabloid.

The uprising of Newcastle folk had one of the lords of the coal fields. Above less to do with the places the men visited all, Sir John is a "Geordie," as New-

By Barry James pernational Herold Tribune

- BRUSSELS — Even Prime Minister

Tony Blair of Britain said Tuesday that

he could not be sure of a seat at games in

The European Commission, acting in

agreement with that view, strengthened

its warning that it would sue France for

millions of dollars in damages for keep-

ing well over half the tickets for the

soccer World Cup this summer. Karel

Van Miert, the European Union's anti-

trust commissioner, accused the French

authorities of "very considerable dis-

The Commission, the EU's executive

body, will lodge a formal complaint that

officials said could lead to a claim for

fines totaling up to 10 percent of ticket sales. The French organizing committee

immediately replied that it would appeal

the complaint, and Van Miert acknowl-edged that the case could drag on well

Addressing the French National As-

Blair had earlier suggested that not

more than two government ministers

should attend games in which England

or Scotland are playing, to avoid accusations of special treatment from fans

unable to get tickets. British officials

The commission says it has a duty to

ensure that all European citizens are

treated equally. Van Miert accused the

French sports minister, Marie-George

Buffet, of interfering to oppose the com-

mission and to encourage the defiance

France says it is acting fairly by of-

of the organizing committee.

sembly on Tuesday, Blair said he would try to return to France for the World Cup

past the final whistle.

create a black market.

if be could find a ticket.

crimination" against foreign fans.

the soccer World Cup this summer.

World Cup Ticket Matter:

Will Blair Get a Seat?

European Soccer/Ros Hughes

or the company they kept than the apparent boasts that showed contempt for the club's customers, the fans.

'Shepherd and Hall may own the shares," said John Regan, secretary of the Newcastle Independent Supporters Association, "but the fans own the heart and soul of this club. The bottom line is that an apology is not enough: they must

Belatedly, they did Late Tuesday, Sir John Hall, the father of Douglas Hall and the businessman whose leadership six years ago saved Newcastle from impending bankruptcy, returned as interim chairman, to the end of this season. He has 10 weeks to unify board, team and supporters — 10 weeks during which Newcastle could win the FA Cup, its first major English trophy for 43 years. Sir John is 65. He is a man of volcanic

emotions. He worked down a coal mine but now lives in the ancestral home of one of the lords of the coal fields. Above

fering to send 60,000 of the remaining 160,000 tickets to the soccer federations

of the other 31 participating nations -

10,000 more than it was offering last week — and selling the rest on a first-

Jacques Lambert, the head of the organizing committee, said it would have

been seen as a "gross injustice" by the French if those tickets were sold only to

The French Sports Ministry insists

that since taxpayers have paid the costs of the championship, including a mo-numental new stadium near Paris, it was

only fair that French fans should get 65

The organizing committee says it re-

ceived 20 million requests for the 1.25

million available tickets. Tickets sold

outside France are being distributed either through national soccer feder-

ations or through officially recognized

tour operators, which are selling seats

only as part of package deals.

British fans say they have cannot afford prices of up to £600 (\$1,000) for a single first-round match, and much

more for later games.
Lastmonth, FIFA, soccer's world governing body, said it had persuaded the

organizing committee to hand over

150,000 tickets for the 48 first-round

games that it had been holding in reserve

to sell to French fans. The committee

insists it has obeyed rules laid down by

The dispute has prompted an anti-

French campaign hy the British tabloid press, with one newspaper, the News of the World, publishing the photo of the

woman in charge of ticket distribution

with her head in a guillotine. It printed

her telephone and fax numbers and

urged readers to send complaints. The

committee was swamped with calls.

come, first-served basis.

fans ootside France.

percent of the tickets.

castle natives are known. He is a man hewn from hardship who has an intense belief in family and regional values. Time will tell if he was too soft on his

son. At Tuesday's media briefing, Sir John delivered the apology his offspring dared not, and then castigated the reporter, Mazher Mahmood, whose scam entrapped the two men.

"The nightmare for our two families." said Sir John, 'was trying to explain all this to sobbing grandchildren. The human cost is immense, and I ask you all now to let us get on with our lives." Sir John resigned as chairman 14

months ago, when Newcastle was floated oo the stock exchange. Shortly before that, Kevin Keegan, the charismatic team manager, had left the club. British institutional investors with stakes in the club are considering their options. They have asked searching questions about the two exposed men

a quoted company.
They, and other investors, will doubtless wait to see what follows Sir John's

and their fitness to serve on the board of

10 weeks in charge.

The "people" have won, though it may be a pyrthic victory.

"I feel very sorry for the fans because

you can't get better supporters in the whole land," said Cardinal Basil Hume, head of the Roman Catholic Church in Britain and a lifelong Newcastle United fan. "They deserve a first-rate team run by a club that is well organized." The crux of this matter is that the

fortunes of Newcastle are built, more strongly than in any other British city, on the faith of the local fans. They live and breathe soccer, it is their regional identity, ingrained in the people as coal dust was once beneath the fingernails. One fan said last week that moralizing

over the deeds of Shepherd and Douglas Hall should be left to their families (both are married men with children), but the insults to fans would never be forgiven. As drink flowed in Marbella, the pair boasted of "ripping off" fans who paid £50 for replica shirts that cost £5 to make, called the women of Newcastle "dogs," said the star player Alan Shearer was as "boring as Mary Poppins" and crowed that they had sold Andy Cole to Manchester United for £7 million knowing he needed serious surgery.

Within a day of the publication of the story, more than the fee for Cole fell from the market valuation of the club. Within 10 days, Shepherd and Hall were made to depart the boardroom. "What has happened has been self-inflicted," said Sir John, "but you have to ask why such an elaborate scam started? They were not arms dealers, not robbers."

He then reminded his audience that it was Shepherd and Hall, together with the Newcastle chief executive Freddie Fletcher, who in 1992 orchestrated the ion of Keepan, the Pied Piper, and Sir John, the paymaster. The last act of the now disparaged junior partners was to sign a deal with the French TV station Canal Plus to show Newcastle's matches live in 160 countries. They made profits hat without honor.

Rob Hughes is on the staff of The Times of London



Anna Kournikova returning a serve against Monica Seles in the first setof their Lipton Championships match, which the Russian won, 7-5, 6-4.

Kournikova in Final 8 **After Beating Martinez**

The Associated Press
KEY BISCAYNE, Florida — Arma Koumikova earned the last women's berth in the quarterficals at the Lipton Championships on Tuesday by beating Conchita Martinez, 6-3, 6-0.

Kournikova, 16, eliminated a top-10 player for the second time in 24 hours. She beat No. 4 Monica Sales, 7-5, 6-4, Monday. The Russian will next play Lindsay Davenport, the world No. 2. Martinez, ranked ninth; never had a

break point and hit only two winners in the 51-minute mismatch. Koumikova won 15 of 17 points at the net.

"I was really prepared and knew what I had to do," Kournikova said. "I'm really an aggressive player. I try to come in the net as much as possible. Seles, playing just her second match after a four-month layoff, was no match for Kournikova.

Pete Sampras was also treated rudely. He lost, 0-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-3, to Wayne Ferreira on Monday, and his run as No. 1 could end next week.

"I'm sitting here in shock," Sampras said. "I had the match in my hands. I let it slip away."

His grip on No. 1 is tenuous, thanks to stumbling start in 1998. Petr Korda, who is ranked No. 2, Marcelo Rios, the No. 3, and Greg Rusedski, No. 5, have a chance to supplant Sampras, depending on how they fare at the Lipton. Sampras, whose 102-week reign is

the third-longest in ATP Tour history, could slip to third next week. "You just hope when it comes in the end of the year, I can be No. 1," he said.

The end-of-the-year ranking is a true indication of who had the best year. But this is not the way I wanted to start the This year has been especially difficult

for Seles, who has spent the last few months tending to her terminally ill father, and her rusty baseline game was no match for Kournikova. "Monica has always been the player I

admired most," she said. "When I was growing np, she was the young and upcoming player."

24, but a 1993 stabhing and her father's. illness make her seem older.

"I feel bad for her, for her dad, for what happened to her," Kournikova said. "If nothing would happen to her, I think she would win another 20 Grand

Sampras, who owns 10 Grand Slam titles, has finished the last five years at No. 1. But in five tournaments in 1998, he has only one title - at Philadelphia

'You have to have a bad patch somewhere," Ferreira said. 'It's taken him!

Korda, who needs two victories this week to overtake Sampras, outlasted; Prancisco Clavet, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3. Rusedski, a longshot to become No. 1 next week, overpowered Marc Rosset, 6-1., 7-6 (10-8). Rios, who could become No. 1 if he wins the Lipton, earlier advanced to a fourth-round matching against Goran Ivanisevic.



Monica Seles, who was playing her Seles was a teenager then. Now she's second match after a long layoff.

Browns Will Be Reborn in Cleveland

By Leonard Shapiro Washington Post Service

ORLANDO, Florida - National Football League owners have unanimonsly voted to provide Cleveland with an expansioo franchise that will be known as the Browns and will begin playing in 1999. On the first day of their annual winter

meetings on Monday, the owners also approved an extension of the collective argaining agreement with the players' union, assuring labor peace through

Cleveland had been guaranteed a new team by the league after Art Modell moved the city's longtime franchise to Baltimore after the 1995 season and renamed the team the Ravens. The league will now begin the process of selecting an owner, setting an expansion fee and determining the method for

stocking a team that will play in a who paid an expansion fee of \$140 struction on the site of the old stadium in central Cleveland.

The new Cleveland Browns will play their first game in July 1999 in the annual Hall of Fame preseason contest in nearby Canton, Ohio. The NFL commissioner, Paul Tagliabue, said the franchise would play in the American Foot-

31st franchise, and Tagliabue said they would immediately begin sharing in the Neither Tagliabue nor the stadium committee chairman, Jerry Richardson, owner of the Carolina Panthers, would estimate a franchise fee, but Tampa Bay's owner, Malcolm Glazer, said he thought

ball Conference's Central Division. eague television revenues in 1999.

The Browns will become the league's

\$500 million was not out of line. that complicated," said Richardson,

70,000-seat stadium already under con- million when the league expanded to Carolina and Jacksonville three years ago. Several groups have already expressed interest in owning a new Browns franchise.

The commissioner's role in achieving the labor extension as well as negotiating an eight-year, \$17.6 billion network and cable TV cootract was rewarded when owners voted unanimously to give him a five-year contract extension through March 2005. Tagliabue, 57, has been in office since November 1989 and had two years left

on a contract that reportedly paid him about \$2.5 million a year. No figures were made public by the league, but sources indicated that his new contract would double that salary.

The National Basketball Association "A price tag of a franchise will not be commissioner, David Stern, earns \$6 million a year.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL **NBA STANDINGS** Pd GB 48 21 496 — 37 31 544 10% 35 23 515 12% 35 23 515 12% 36 24 597 13 30 38 441 17% 25 43 348 22% 576 577 .235 .114 x-Seaffia x-L.A. Lokars x-Phoenox Portland Socromento

hRadelphia 15 18 27 19— 7 D: Dumars 6-16 8-8 20, HR 5-11 7-11 17: P Coleman B-15 9-9 25, Show 3-10 4-6 11, Re-bounds—Detroit 55 (B.Williams 13), Philo-delphia 49 (Coleman 13), Assists—Dulmit 23 (Hill, Dumans 5), Philodelphia 20 (Iverson 8). Trisc Communication
24 21 23 29 88 Chicage 20 26 24 37 11 11 8: Wester 10-20 4-526. McCarrly 9-158-21 79 C: Pippen 11-20 4-4 77, Jordan 11-22 2-2 24. Rabounds—Boston 38 (Wotter 77, Chicage) 7), Chicago 29 (Kukoc 10).

Mioseseta 24 20 27 14— 67

Dollas 20 16 25 20— 97

Al: Pactor 10-22 1-1 23. Mitchell 8-14 2-21 9;

D: Finley 11-22-3-127, Bradley 7-142-4 14. Rebeouts—Mianasota 50 (Mitchell 10), Dollas 56 (Bradley 17). Assists—Mianasota 18

Mianasota Dollas 10 20— Mianasota 18 56 (Bradley 12). Assists—Mirposoto 18 (Marbury 6). Dollas 19 (Finley, Reeves 7). L.A. Laigers 27 27 30 23—107 Denver 18 28 26 22—86

014; S: Payton 18-180-024, Baker 9-142-320.

28 12 32 23— 95 27 26 27 24—106 Vancouver 29 26 27 24—106 LA Clippers: Clippers: 6-11 4-5 20, Rogers 8-14 0-0 18r V: Reeves 14-24 7-8 25, Abdur-Ruhlm 5-11 6-7 16. Reboords—L.A. Clippers

WOMEN'S NCAA REGIONAL GLAMPS MIDWEST Louisiana Tech 72. Purdue 65 Termessee 76, North Carolina 70 WEST Arkensos 77, Outre 72 THE FINAL POUR IN XANSAS CITY, NO SEMFINALS ON MARCH 27 and Tech vs. North Caroling State Arkansas vs. Tennessee

BASEBALL EXHIBITION BASEBALL re 7, Minnesota 2 -Detroit 8, Toronto 3 Konson City 7, Cleve Philadelphia 7, Texas 4

Houston S. Tompo Bay 1 Los Angeles S. Azonto 4 Florida 7, St. Louis 6 New York Mets 2 Montreal 2 and 4, Sectifie 3 Son Francisco & Angheim 3 Boston & New York You Saa Diego (xx) 4, Artzona 4, 12 im:

NHL STANDINGS BASTERN COMPTRENGE ATLANTIC CONSISTANT ATLANTIC 26 19 15 87 196 161 31 25 13 75 180 162 32 26 9 73 196 175 27 30 12 66 163 174 27 34 7 61 166 187 W L T PB GF GA # L I PS GF GA 42 16 11 95 210 137 38 19 14 90 216 171 36 24 8 80 205 168 28 30 18 80 205 168 28 31 12 44 174 170 27 31 12 44 174 England: 127 and 275-3 36 19 16 88 209 175 Vest Indies: 500-7 deciseed. 25 11 75 197 139

ICEHOCKEY

Pirst Pariet: Carolina, Gelbas 11, 2. Carolina, Primoru 21 (Roberta, Leschyshyn) Second Pariet: F-Washburn 10, 4, Garolina, Kapanen 25 (Chiassen, Primeas) (pp). 5. Carolina Griando 3 (Kapanen Primsou)
Taird Perlee: F-Kasiov 13 (Dvarus, Sverila)
7. F-Medanby 12 (Mvaphy, Gayma)
Carolina Primero 22, (en), Shels on seel.
Carolina 10-16-3-29. F- 13-9-16-38. First Period: C-Knoknesor 10 (Letter: Johnson) 2. D-Pusher 2 (Lepathe) 3. C-Moreon 8 (Kliger) Second Period: C-Amerile 26 (Sufet, Terrell) (pp). 5. C-Moreon 9. (Kliger, More) 6. C-Lichthon 17 (Morphy. Yzerman) (pp). Third Period: D-Fedorov 2. Shanahan) (pp), 16, -D-Yzerman 20 (Fedorov, Lidskora) OverRice: Home, Shirts

on god: C. 9-8-5-1--23. D- 13-12-16-5--65. Gealies C-Terreri. D-Hodson, Maradis. CRICKET WEST HERES YE. BIOLAND STATIN TEST, FINAL DAY AT TEA

Showers prevented any play before lunch. ZHABABWE YAL PAKSETAN SECOND TEST, FOURTH DAY TUESDAY IN HARARS, ZMBASWE rate: 277 and 268

TENNIS

MARK'S STREETES
THERD ROUND
THE HEREDOR, BRIDER, del Carlos Moyo (16), Sept. 8-1, 6-4; Fabrice So

(16), Spain, 8-1, 6-4; Fabrice Santura, France, det. Sebantien Prieta, Argentina, 6-2, 6-3. Nicolas Klefac, Gernsany, def. Jones Bjarkman (7), Sweden, 7-6 (8-0), 7-6 (7-3), Wayne Ferreira. 8. Artica. def. Peter Sampros (1), U.S., 0-6, 7-6 (8-0), 6-3. Grag Russedski (6), Ernjand, def. Marc. Resset, Smitz, 8-1, 7-6 (10-4).
Petr Korda (2), Czech Republic, def. Francisco Clavet Spain; 6-4, 4-6, 3.
Thomass Engrist, Sweden, def. Korol Kucera (11), Sloveida, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; Alex Correll Spolo, def. Geto Bionco, Spolo, 4-3, 4-1 Gustavo Kverten (10), Brazil, det, Andrei Kedredev, Ukraine, 6-2-4-4, 7-6 (7-5); Sieve Zampbell, U.S., def, Todd Martin, U.S., 1-6, 7-WOMEN'S STRELES

Morting Hings (1), Switz, del. Sondrine Testud (13), France, 6-3, 8-7, 6-2; Lindsoy Dovenport (2), U.S., del. Nothalle Taxzini (12), Fr. 6-1, 6-2 Jana Novatna (3), Czech R., inice Huber (14), Ger., 6-2, 6-2, Serena ma, U.S., def. Patty Schnyder, Switz, 8-Silvia Forina, Italy, del. Amondo Costre

Serva Frauca Ray, Det. Agricolò Configer (d.), S. Africo. 6-7 (J.-1), 6-2, 6-1; Verus Wil-Horns (11), U.S. def. Rilla Grande, It, 6-1, 6-4. Aranta Alviandra Verta, Vernazuela, 6-2, 6-1. TUESDAY RESULTS.

unikova def. Conchila Mariinez (9), n. 6-3. 6-0. MEN'S SIMOLES POURTH ROUND

TRANSITIONS

AKAMEUM—Put C Angelo Encomacion on 15-day disabled fist, Optioned RHP Geoff Ed-

15-day disabled life. Optioned RHP Geoff Ed-self to Vancouver, PCL.

2057as—Optioned RHP Robinson Checa to Pownicket, IL.

CBCAco—Agreed to learns with IDF Will Con-ders on 1-year controct. Designated LHP Milw Bertetti for assignment. Optioned OF Brisin Stamons and RHP John Snyder to Colgary, PCL and C Mark Johnson to Birm-Ingham, SL.

MEW YOUK—Designated RHP Danny Rice for assignment.

for assignment:

axicate—Optioned RHP Joy Wilsonick and INF Mark Bellhorn to Editoritor, PCL
SEATTLE—Put LHP Jeff Fassers on 15-day disabled list.

Assault and distributed list.

TEXAS—Put RHP Must Welfeste on irrevocable walvers for perspose of giving blan
bis seconditional release. Put RHP Xavier

Tellesson on 15-HATTONAL LEAGUE ARIZONA — Por RHP Cory Lide. RHP Ken obkream and IF Honley Fritos en 15-day dis-bled list. Optioned RHP Chris Clemens and

zobed its: Optioned RMP Chris Clemons and 2B. Edwin Diaz to Tuction, PCL. HOUSTON—Optioned IF. Russ Johnson to

Est. Optioned LNP Sill Putsipher, C Vance Wileon and 28 Raiph Millard to Norfolk IL. BASKETEALL NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION PHILADELPHIA—Activated F Derrick Colo an. Put F Kobu Stewart on injured list.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

MATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE BUTTALO-Recalled RW Vacior Varaf

njured receive. Put RW Todd Harvey on in-Impure reserve, Assigned D Sergey Goater, F.
Jeson Botterill, F. Chris Tancill and D Dan
Keczmer to Michigan, IHL.
DETROTT— Acquired O Dmitri Mirenov
from Anchelm to exchange for O Jumic
Pushor and Detroit's 1998 atti-nound draft
for Serial W December 2015. LOS AMESTES Assigned O Jon Vopet to

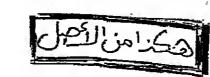
from Long Beach of IHL

TAMPA BAY—Sent O Pavel Kubina and RW
Carry Spring to Adhondock, AHL. Recalled D.
Mile McBain from Adhondock, AHL. Recalled D.
TORONTO—Sent O Daniel Markov to St.
John's, AHL.

MARCHINERS. Trended LW (Sto. Online).

John's, AHL,
VANCOUVER_Traded L'W Gino Odjick to
N.Y. Islandes for D Japon Stradylick. Sent C
Brandon Convery to Syrocase, AHL,
GASHINGTON Recalled O Stewart Make
yurios from Packland, AHL,
COLLEGE

Temperature Contract of Cliff File? Average Extended contract of Clift Ellis," nears baskettall coacts for three years until



Bulls Take 6th Straight In Victory **Over Celtics**

Scottie Pippen scored 27 points, including 14 on dunks, as the Chicago Bulls beat the Boston Celtics to keep their narrow grip on first place in the overall standings.

The Bulls victory, by 111-88 in Chicago, was their sixth straight. Pippen, Michael Jordan and Phil Jackson. the coach, might all leave the team after

"We know that it's 14, 13, 12, 11," Jackson said. "We're just counting them down until the end of the season. Just a handful of games left before we

NBA ROUNDEP

finish up as a team. We've done something here that's remarkable, but it can't go on forever. We know that. Sometime, the plug's got to be pulled on it, and this

is the appropriate time. It's time to go."
The Bulls lead the Seattle SoperSonics by half a game in the overall stand-ings and the Utah Jazz by one game. Chicago appears to have the easiest remaining schedule of the three top teams. Utah and Seattle still must play each other once more.

Pippen had 11 rebounds and six assists in one of his best all-around games of the season. Since his return after missing 35 games with a foot injury, the Bulls have gone 28-6.

Jordan scored 24 points, Dennis Rodman had 14 rebounds to go with a seasoo-high 12 points and Toni Kukoc had 17 points and 10 assists for the Bulls.

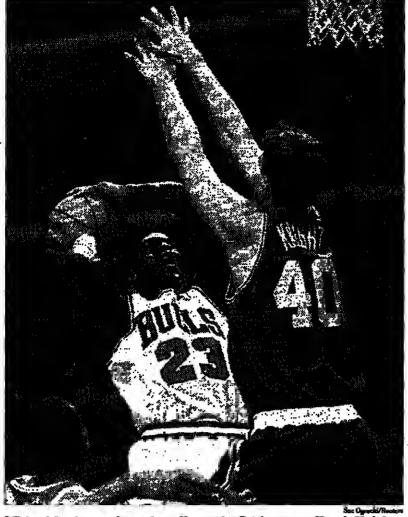
SuperSonics 109, Kings 83 In Seattle, Gary Payton scored 24 points and Hersey Hawkins broke a two-game scoreless drought with 16 points as Seattle ended a two-game losing streak with a victory over Sacramento.

Though the game was already de-cided in the fourth quarter, coach George Karl left Hawkins in as his shooting guard tried to regain his touch,

Averaging a career-low 10.3 points, Hawkins missed 15 straight shots before scoring on a lay-up in the first quarter.

Lakers 107, Huggets 86 In Denver, Eddie Jones had 27 points, five rebounds and three blocked shots as Los Angeles completed its second straight four-game

eason sweep of the Nuggets.
Shaquille O'Neal added 24 points



Michael Jordan getting a shot off over the Celtics center Travis Knight.

who sent the Nuggets to a franchise board of governors meeting in Dallas on record-tying 62d loss.

Mavericks 91, Tamberwolves 87 Hobert Davis scored 10 of his 16 points during a 20-2 fourth-quarter run as Dallas rallied to win at Minnesota.

Michael Finley scored 27 points and Shawn Bradley added 16 points, 12 rebounds and 4 blocks for the Mavcricks. The Timberwolves have lost fivo of their last seven.

Pistons 94, 76ors 79 Allen Iverson was held to a career-low four points as Detroit, behind 20 points from Joe Du-mars, won at Philadelphia. Iverson shot just 2-for-14 for the Sixers.

Grizzlies 106, Clippers 95 In Vancouver, Bryant Reeves scored 35 points as the Grizzlies set a franchise record with their 16th victory. The Grizzlies won 15 games in 1995-96, their inaugural season, and 14 in 1996-97.

■ NBA Voids Pact With Players

The owners of the National Basketball Association voted overwhelmingly to void the final three years of the collective bargaining agreement with the players'

Monday paved the way for negotiations that will probably alter the off-season and beyond.

The owners exercised a clause in the preement that allowed them to reopen the pact if it was not working to their satisfaction. Neither Commissioner David Stern nor Billy Hunter, the players' association executive director, would discuss the possibility of the first work stoppage in the league's history. The deal will expire June 30. Both

sides have from April 1 until then to work out a new contract. Several team officials have suggested that if one is not reached, the league would most likely lock out the players during the summer and prohibit teams from signing free agents or making trades.

"There are obvious remedies available to all sides in a labor situation when parties do not agree, but we'll leave it to others to specolate on a worst-case scenario," Stern said Monday.

Hunter said in a statement, "It is unfortunate the owners have chosen to forfeit three years of guaranteed labor

Cardinal Flying High in NCAA

Stanford Proves It's Physical and Quick Enough for Final Four

By Timothy W. Smith New York Times Service

Stanford was not supposed to be physical enough for a tough inside battle with Purdue in the Midwest Regional semifinal. But in the end, the Boilermakers were the ones picking themselves up off the floor.

And the Cardinal guards were not supposed to be quick enough to handle Rhode Island's backcourt of Cuttino

Mobley and Tyson Wheeler.

Bot it was Cardinal guard Arthur Lee
who took over Sunday's game in the
final two minutes, and it was Wheeler who unraveled at the free-throw line with an opportunity to tie the score in the last five seconds.

Now Stanford, the "other" team from the Pacific-10 Conference, is in the Final Four with an opportunity to win the National Collegiate Athletic Association men's basketball championship.

In the first game Saturday night at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, the Cardinal (30-4) will play Kentucky (33-4), which rallied from a 17-point deficit to defeat Duke and win the South Regional on Sunday.

Utah (29-3), which knocked off Arizona — the Pacific-10 champion and the defending national champion - to win the West Regional, will play North Carolina (34-3), the East Regional champion, in the second game.

onio, said Stanford forward Mark Madsen, who did Mormon missiquary work in Spain for two years. "I love Mexican food - flour tortillas, cheese and chicken quesadillas, rice casseroles. I'm just very excited about going."

But this is not an opportunity to play galloping gournet. This is a chance to make a run for a national championship, something Stanford has not won since

Mike Montgomery said that when he was hired as the Cardinal's coach 10 years ago, the prevailing attitude among students, fans and some administrators was that the basketball team could not succeed at a high level. He never accepted that, and he has taken Stanford to the NCAA tournament six times in 10

seasons.
"When I was being recruited, I remember Coach Montgomery talking about it," Madsen said. "He said the goal of our program was to get to the Final Four and have a chance at a national championship. Now, it's a real-

All four coaches will be making their first appearances as head coaches in the Final Foor, and North Carolina's Bill Guthridge and Kentucky's Tubby Smith are in their first season with their teams. Rick Majerus, who took Utah to the final eight last year, was an assistant

"I'll have the opportunity to speak a on the staff of Al Maguire when little Spanish down there" in San Ant Maguire guided Marquette to a national championship in 1977.

Kentucky and North Carolina are familiar names in the Final Four. The Wildcats are here for the third ear in a row. Last year, coached by Rick Pitino, they lost to Arizona in the

championship game; they won the title

the year before. Guthridge was the longtime assistant to Dean Smith, who retired before this season after 11 Final Four appearances. Smith left Guthridge a team loaded with talent, and Guthridge became the first head coach to win 30 or more games in

his first season. The Tar Heels, who have been to the Final Four three of the last four years, are the favorites.

"We know only one team is going to leave San Antonio not disappointed," Guthridge said. "We hope it's us. We're working hard to make sure it's North Carolina '

Antawn Jamison, the Tar Heels' star forward, said the team was going to San Antonio with a different attitude than it had last year, when it lost to Arizona in

the semifinals. "After we made the Final Four last year, we were happy to be there," be

We kind of got caught up in it. This year, everyone on this team feels we can

1998 NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four N. Carolina 73 1 8 Rhode Island 74 N. Carolina 75 Rhode Island 77 Thursday Friday fichigan State 58 Stanford (30-4) N. Carolina (34-3) Washington 6411 3 Stanford 67 Thursday Connecticut 64 Stanford 79 San Antonio 2 Purdue 59 Connecticut 65 2 Semifinal Final Semifinal 1 Duke 80 Arizona 87 March 30 Saturde Arizona 51 Thursday 5 Syracuse 67 6 U.C.L.A. 68 Kentucky (33-4) Utah (29-3) Utah 65 3 Friday West Virginia 62 10 2 Kentucky 94

union, The New York Times reported. The vote of 27 to 2 at the league's peace at a time when the industry is so Kobe Bryant had 23 for the Lakers, obviously healthy. nessee, which trailed, 61-49, with less After 60 games and a slew of opsets,

'ticago Sees Silver Lining in Tie With Detroit

TROIT - Craig Hartsburg, the Chicago Black- 1,400 point s' coach, tried to put a positive spin on blowing a goal lead against the Defroit Red Wings. We can look at it two ways," Hartsburg said Monday

NHL ROSHDSP

after Steve Yzerman scored two of Detroit's three reriod goals and assisted on the other, rallying the /ings to a 5-5 tie. "The negative is we didn't hold the nd let them back into the hockey game. Wo didn't not the positive is we came in here and got a point." rman's heroics cost Chicago a chance to match a -best five-game winning streak. His four-point night o had two assists) moved Yzerman within one point of becoming the 13th National Hockey League player with

Detroit trailed by 5-3 when Yzerman scored the Red Wings' third power-play goal of the game with 4:48 remaining. Yzerman tied it with 51 seconds to go. Ethan Moreau scored two for Chicago, helping it take a 4-1 lead. Hurricanos 5, Panthers 3 In Miami, Keith Primeau scored twice as Carolina extended Florida's losing streak to 13

The Hurricanes, who had lost four of their previous five games, moved into a ninth-place tie with the New York Rangers in the Eastern Conference. Both teams trail Ottawa by five points in the race for the conference's final playoff spot. Florida, which also has a 15-game winless streak, moved within four losses of the NHL record of 17 straight, set by the Washington Capitals in 1974-75.

Tennessee Gets Fright but Wins, 76-70

the race for the NCAA women's basketball championship has come down to Tennessee and three surprises. And speaking of surprises, there was almost

Tennessee, practically preordained as

WOMEN'S NCAA

the national champion from the start, kept alive its hopes of a record third straight title, but only after surviving its scariest game of the season.

The Lady Vols needed all the havoc their press could muster and clutch play from Chamique Holdsclaw to turn back North Carolina, 76-70, Monday night in the Mideast Regional final in Nashville.

Thanks to a pulsating comeback from a 12-point deficit, Tennessee (37-0) will play its Southeastern Conference rival Arkansas (22-10) in the national semifinals in Kansas City on Friday night.
"This is the hardest of the six games to play," said the Tennessee coach, Pat Summit. "Everybody dreams of being

in the Final Four, but you have to win the regional first." Arkansas, at No. 9 the lowest seed ever to reach the Final Four, beat Duke, 77-72, in the West final in Oakland to earn its first trip to the sport's showcase event.

But a pairing with Tennessee is not much of a reward. The Lady Vols beat Arkansas, 88-58, during the regular season. Tennessee will be in the Final Four for the 11th time and has won five national titles, all under Summitt. Louisiana Tech, which has won two national

championships, beat Purdue, 72-65, in the Midwest final in Lubbock, Texas, to reach the Final Four for the ninth time. "There's nothing like going to the Final Four," said Leon Barmore, the Tech coach. "It never gets old." It almost never happened for Tenthan seven and a half minutes left. But the Lady Vols' smothering press triggered a 15-1 run that pulled them into the lead. Holdsclaw finished with 29 points and Semeka Randall scored 20 for the

Lady Vols, who trailed in the second half for the first time since Dec. 12. timer North Carolina State (25-6) in its semifinal. North Carolina State, the No. 4 seed, won the East, 60-52 over second-

seeded Connecticut in Dayton, Ohio. Connecticut lost for the first time in the eight games it has played without All-America Nykesha Sales, sidelined by a ruptured Achilles tendon. Amy Duran and Paige Sauer led the Huskies

with 11 points each,
"Despite all our wins, this year has been an incredible struggle for me," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "The fact that we've even been able to get here is a miracle."

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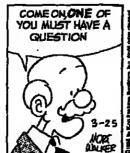
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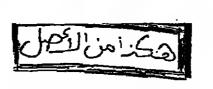
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ars every Monday









By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — What a circus! What a farce! See Vernon Jordan quote St. Paul on the courthouse steps! Watch '60 Minutes' tell

the tale of a woman groped in the Oval Office! Feast your eyes on the transformation wrought by the hairdresser's art on Paula Jones and Linda Tripp!

Witness Lawyer Ginsmedia stardom!

And don't miss Matt Drudge, folks! The man who tells all on the Internet! Absolutely all! See him look square-jawed and upright as he meets ferocious interrogator Tim Russert!

See Michael Isikoff get scooped while clownish oldfashioned Newsweek editors dawdle over ethics!

Watch media stars meet Monica Lewinsky at parties and restaurants! Hear tales of "the big creep," the semen-stained garment and fantastic book

contracts! Watch Kenneth Starr, the Sultan of the Subpoena, sweat Monica's mom in the grandjury hotbox!

See daring leakers defy court orders by crushing me-dia aces under ions of leaked documents.

Don't miss the entire Supreme Court explaining unanimously why a lady's case must be heard without delay. and presidency be damned!
I cite but a handful of rea-

Monica fatigue mean they has become a war of laughs. have made up their minds and

wish the spinmeisters would leave them alone. This is not the same as saying they are not delighted by the spectacle of all Washington coming unhinged in a grand old-fash-

ioned burlesque show. It is natural that "the great issues" — budgets, pork hills, social welfare - should leave millions numb. Millions assume such matters will be settled by and for the benefit of hig-money people.

The Monica circus, on the hurg's rise from the obscurity other hand, gives outsiders a of malpractice courtrooms to chance to enjoy a pleasurable sneer at the essential cheesiness of hig shots affoat on oceans of money.

The polls depict a public that thinks the president misbehaves with women and lies about it, but doesn't think this disqualifies him for the office. From this you might expect that politicians will drop "family-issues" bunk from their campaign oratory, hut don't bet on it. Political campaigners know that hypocrisy, if flagrant enough, can be catnip to the voters.

One of the joys of the Monica show is that there is nobody to root for, with the exception of Betty Currie, the president's secretary, who seems to have had the wretched luck to be the sec-retary to a president who needs a secretary to take a fall.

Among the shabbier per-formers are the While House's muscle guys, whose job it is to counteract rumor with rumor, guff with guff, l cite but a handful of rea-sons for douhting people who say they are sick and tired of sassination. James Carville Monicagate. Farce of this promised "war" when Prosquality doesn't come along ecutor Starr entered the Monica phase of his perpetual Most people who profess Whitewater investigation. It

'Titanic' Captures 11 Oscars

Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt Win Top Acting Awards

By Bernard Weinraub New York Times Service

OS ANGELES - "Titanic." the James Cameron epic ahout doomed ocean liner, glided tri-umphantly through the 70th annual Academy Awards, winning 11 accolades, including best picture and the best director Oscars for Cameron. The film's honors tied it with "Ben-Hur" for the most ever.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences presented its top acting awards to Jack Nicholson and Helen Huni for "As Good as It Gets," and its supporting-acting Oscars to Kim Basinger for "L.A. Confidential" and Robin Williams for "Good Will Hunting." It was Nicholson's third Academy Award.

The best foreign film was the Dutch movie "Character." hy Mike van Diem (Page 81.

went to "The Long Way Home," a marked a comeback for the 44searing film about the hardships a tragic love affair aboard the At the same time, Curtis Hanson and Brian Helgeland won an Oscar for their adaptation of the James Ellroy novel "L.A. Confidential."

The winners of the original screenplay award were Ben Affleck and Matt Damon for "Good Will Hunting." in which the two actors also starred.

Hunt, the Emmy-Award win-ning star of NBC's "Mad About You," received her best-actress Oscar for playing a world-weary waitress and single mother in James L. Brooks's comedy "As Good as It Gets." The 34-year-old actress said emotionally, "I'm here for one reason - that's Jim

Brooks. Basinger, whose role as a sultry



The acting awards went to Basinger, Williams, Hunt and Nicholson.

The Oscar for best documentary prostitute in "L.A. Confidential" year-old actress, said excitedly endured by liherated concentration camp inmates after World War II.

At the same time, Curtis Hanson dream out there, I'm living proof

that it can happen."
Williams, who had previously received three nominations for an Oscar hut never won, seemed overwhelmed while accepting his supporting-actor award. "This might be the one time I'm speechless." said the 46-year-old actor, who portrayed a therapist in "Good

Will Hunting."

Although Academy officials said beforehand that it was doubtful that Billy Crystal, the host of the show, would mention the current sexual allegations by several women against President Clinton, Crystal ohviously thought otherwise.

"A year ago the White House was complaining there was too much sex in Holly-wood, he said. Times change." At another point Crystal brought

down the house when he said: "There's a billion people watching the show tonight Linda Tripp is taping it." Later Williams cracked a joke "the Vernon about employment Jordan agency.

The 3-hour-and-14minute "Titanic" has been No. I at the box office for 14 weeks and has grossed a record \$1.2 billion around the world, including \$495 million in the United States. The film starred Leonardo Winslet as fictional lovers aboard the vessel that sank in the Atlantic in 1912, carrying more than 1,500 people to their

With 14 Oscar nom- thought there was a hunger for



inations, which tied the record set emotion, by the Joseph L. Mankiewicz classic "All About Eve" (1950), "Titanic" was, from the outset, almost certain to dominate the Academy Awards. Cameron, who was pilloried in the press and across Hollywood last year for going \$100 million over hudget on his \$200 million movie, is now perhaps Hollywood's premier film-

Cameron said recently that in creating "Titanic," he felt audi-DiCaprio and Kate ences were eager to see a romantic and historic epic and were weary-

ing of science-fiction films. 'We went in with a harebrained theory — let's do a romantic epic because no one's done one in a long time," the filmmaker said. "We

The other winners:

The Other Winners:
Art Oirection: "Titanic"
Cinematography: "Titanic"
Sound: "Titanic"
Sound Effects Editing: "Titanic"
Original Musical or Comedy Score: "The
Full Monty," Anne Dudley
Original Dramatic Score: "Titanic," James orner Original Song: "My Heart Will Go On" om "Titanic." James Horner and Will Jen-

Documentary (short subject): "A Story of

ealing
Film Editing: "Titunic"
Makeup: "Men in Biack"
Animated Short Film: "Geri's Came"
Live Action Short Film: "Visas and Visual Effects: "Titanic"

Previously announced: Gordon E. Sawyer Award: Don Iwerks Scientific and Technical Award: Gunnar P. Honorary Award: Stanley Donen

PEOPLE

MAKING a rare public appear- tographers. He flashed a smile at cludes Diana's looping signature in "a recital based on new Chekhov cisco Opera, the Welsh National purple script. The margarine is the short stories and favorite Chekhov Opera and the Santa Fe Opera. rock-star welcome in Vancouver. British Columbia, from about 200 screaming fans. The 15-year-old non Suggitt, 18, who nonetheless prince, his father, Prince Charles, told Canadian Press, "I would ana's favorite causes. There were and his brother, Prince Harry, 13, planned several public events around Vancouver before heading off for a skiing vacation. William, who has been compared in the local

harborside hotel for a reception. first consumer product the fund has "William snubhed us." said Shan-endorsed. Trustees hope the cammarry him. He's beautiful." Britons gave a lackInster welcome

to tubs of margarine bearing the Mary Ashworth, a 50-year-old official logo of the Diana. Princess homemaker. "I am a hig royal fan. of Wales, memorial fund. The tubs and I don't think this is the right way press to the movie star Leonardo of Flora margarine are selling for the DiCaprio, did his hest to ignore same price as the ordinary ones but tainly won't be buying it." teenage girls and the hlinding light the package has the word "Thanks" from an army of international pho- instead of the hrand name and in-

Mad About You' Stars Sign for Another Season

The Associated Press LOS ANGELES - The NBC sitcom "Mad About You" will be hack for its seventh season, now that the show's stars, Helen Hunt and Paul Reiser, have renewed their contracts.

The network refused to divulge what Hunt and Reiser would earn per episode, hul Media Week reported earlier this month it would cost \$1 million-plus for Reiser and about \$1 million for Hunt, who won the Academy Award for best actress on Monday night.

first consumer product the fund has paign will raise \$400,000 for Diplenty of people who disapproved. "I think it is awful and tacky." said

Among mother-daughter acts, the have a 14-year-old son. one coming up on May 2 and 3 in something special. The mother is Rachel Redgrave; the daughter is Vanessa Redgrave, and the two members of the distinguished Brit-

Broadway producer Pamela Koslow, have separated. Hines lives in Los Angeles, where he tapes "The Gregory Hines Show" for CBS. not a divorce. This is just a separation," Hines's publicist said. The

Patricia Racette has received the 19th annual Richard Tucker Award, conferred annually on an American opera singer on the verge ish acting family will appear at the of a major international career. The Fifth Annual Massachusetts Inter- award carries a cash prize of national Festival of the Arts in the \$30,000. Racette, 32, a soprano, world premiere of "Sarah Bernhardi has appeared at the Metropolitan Comes to Town." This theater piece Opera, the Paris Opera, Covent

Now that he's been named co-Gregory Hines and his wife, the anchor of ABC's "Good Morning America," Kevin Newman knows he'll have to get out a little more. 'I've been a newsman all my life,' the 38-year old newscaster said. Koslow, who produced "Jelly's "I'm going to have to read more, go Last Jam," lives in New York, "It's to the movies more and take on the popular culture. I'm just going to have to grow." Newman will take couple, who were married in 1981, over from Charles Gibson ou May 4 as co-anchor with Lisa McRee.

Sister Helen Prejean, whose anti-death-penalty book inspired the movie "Dead Man Walking," hrought her crusade to the UN Human Rights Commission. "I especially appeal to my own country, the United States of America, to dismantle the machinery of death, which each year executes more and is described by Vanessa Redgrave as Garden in London, the San Fran- more people," she said.



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the authornies did not release the

Clinton Shares
or Rwandans

By John F. Harris

GALI. Rwanda — Four years

hiesisted appeals for intervention

a Wednesday, President Bill Clinthe here and acknowledged that aswer should have been simple. day as many as a million people. nwhat Mr. Clinton called the most slaughter in this blood-filled cere are about to leave. It was h he added, for which the United and other members of the intercommunity must share blame ding began. Mr. Clinton said and not immediately call these by their rightful name; genry

fent weeks debating whether the billings carried out hy Hutu excess should properly be called a

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By Brian Knowhork

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Initiation's speech, during an emopliched three-hour stop in the n capital, came after he and his lary Rodham Clinton, listens scade of painful recollections of the campaign to ex ale Rwanda's Tutsi minority e was the Catholic relief work

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